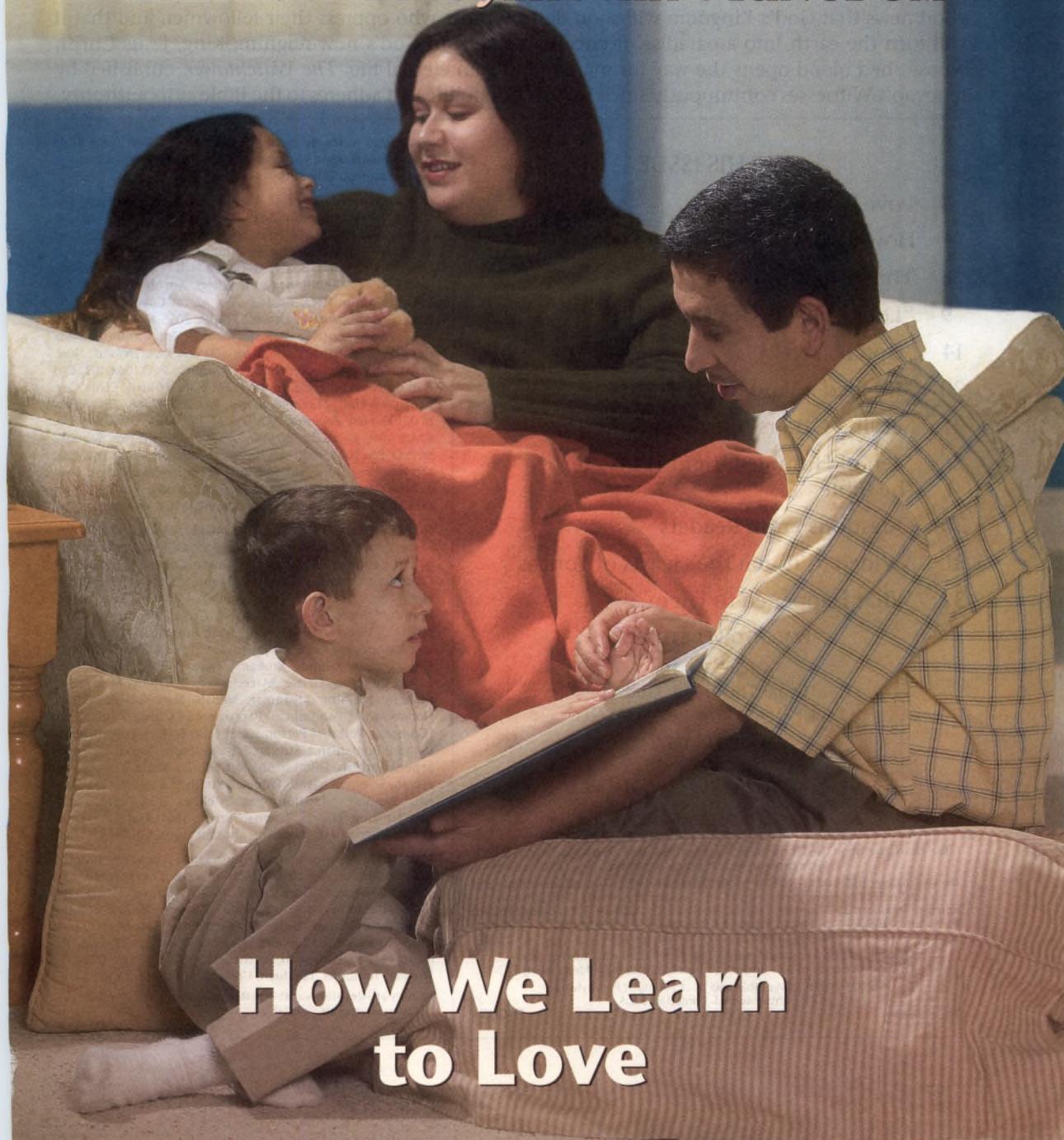


JULY 1, 2003

# THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



## How We Learn to Love

THE PURPOSE OF *THE WATCHTOWER* is to exalt Jehovah God as Sovereign Lord of the universe. It keeps watch on world events as these fulfill Bible prophecy. It comforts all peoples with the good news that God's Kingdom will soon destroy those who oppress their fellowmen and that it will turn the earth into a paradise. It encourages faith in God's now-reigning King, Jesus Christ, whose shed blood opens the way for mankind to gain eternal life. *The Watchtower*, published by Jehovah's Witnesses continuously since 1879, is nonpolitical. It adheres to the Bible as its authority.

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# Love Is Indispensable

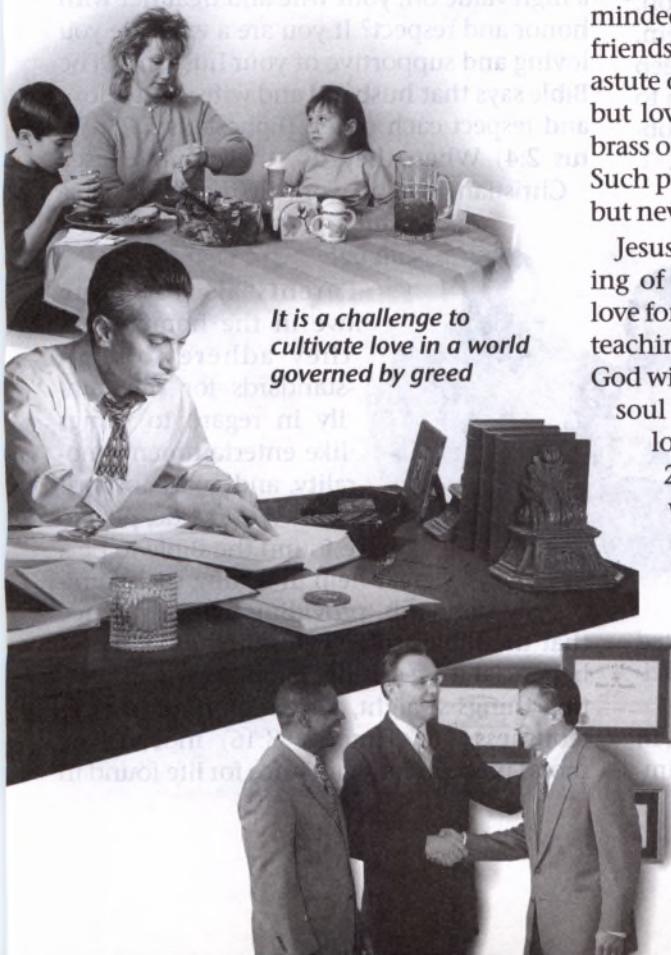
REGARDLESS of age, culture, language, or race, all humans have a hunger for love. If that hunger is not satisfied, they are not happy. A medical researcher wrote: "Love and intimacy are at a root of what makes us sick and what makes us well, what causes sadness and what brings happiness, what makes us suffer and what leads to healing. If a new drug had the same impact, virtually every doc-

tor in the country would be recommending it for their patients. It would be malpractice not to prescribe it."

Yet, modern society, especially its media and popular role models, often places more emphasis on wealth, power, fame, and sex than on the human need for warm, loving relationships. Many educators stress secular goals and careers, defining success primarily in those terms. True, education and the cultivation of one's talents are important, but should they be pursued so single-mindedly that one has no time for family and friends? An educated ancient writer who was an astute observer of human nature likened a gifted but loveless individual to "a sounding piece of brass or a clashing cymbal." (1 Corinthians 13:1) Such people may become wealthy, even famous, but never truly happy.

Jesus Christ, who had a profound understanding of and a special fondness for humans, put love for God and neighbor at the very heart of his teaching. He said: "You must love Jehovah your God with your whole heart and with your whole soul and with your whole mind. . . . You must love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-39) Only those who followed these words would truly be Jesus' followers. Hence, he said: "By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love among yourselves."—John 13:35.

How, though, does one cultivate love in today's world? And how can parents teach love to their children? The following article will address these questions.



*It is a challenge to cultivate love in a world governed by greed*

# How to Develop Genuine Love

"Love is the elixir of life; love is life."

—*Living to Purpose*, by Joseph Johnson, 1871.

**H**OW does a human learn to love? By studying psychology? By reading self-help books? By watching romantic movies? Hardly. Humans learn to love in the first place by the example and training of their parents. Children will learn the meaning of love if, in an environment of warm affection, they see their parents feed and protect them, communicate with them, and take a deep personal interest in them. They also learn to love when their parents teach them to observe sound principles of right and wrong.

Genuine love is more than just affection or sentiment. It consistently acts in the very best interests of others, even if they do not fully appreciate it at the time, which is often the case with children when loving discipline is involved. A perfect example of one who shows unselfish love is the Creator himself. The apostle Paul wrote: "My son, do not belittle the discipline from Jehovah, neither give out when you are corrected by him; for whom Jehovah loves he disciplines."—Hebrews 12:5, 6.

Parents, how can you imitate Jehovah in showing love to your family? And how im-

portant is the example you set in your relationship with each other as husband and wife?

## Teach Love by Example

If you are a husband, do you esteem, or set a high value on, your wife and treat her with honor and respect? If you are a wife, are you loving and supportive of your husband? The Bible says that husband and wife should love and respect each other. (Ephesians 5:28; Titus 2:4) When they do, their children see

Christian love at work firsthand. What a powerful and valuable lesson that can be!

Parents also promote love in the home when they adhere to high standards for the family in regard to things like entertainment, morality, and goals and priorities. Worldwide, people have found the Bible to be a great help in setting such fami-

ly standards, providing living evidence that the Bible truly "is inspired of God and beneficial for teaching, for reproofing, for setting things straight, for disciplining in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16) Indeed, the moral precepts and guidance for life found in



just the Sermon on the Mount are widely considered to be unsurpassed.—Matthew, chapters 5 to 7.

When the whole family looks to God for guidance and adheres to his standards, each individual feels more secure and children are more likely to grow to love and respect their parents. Conversely, in a home with double, flawed, or loose standards, children may become exasperated, angry, and rebellious.—Romans 2:21; Colossians 3:21.

What about single parents? Are they at a serious disadvantage in teaching love to their little ones? Not necessarily. Although there is no substitute for a good mother-and-father team, experience shows that the quality of family relationships can compensate to some degree for a missing parent. If you are a single parent, strive to apply Bible principles in your home. Yes, one proverb tells us: “Trust in Jehovah with all your heart and do not lean upon your own understanding. In all your ways take notice of him, and he himself will make your paths straight”—including the path of parenthood.—Proverbs 3:5, 6; James 1:5.

Many fine young people were raised in a single-parent environment and can now be found faithfully serving God in the thousands of Christian congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses around the world. This is evidence that single parents too can be successful in teaching their children about love.

### How All Can Cultivate Love

The Bible foretold that “the last days” would be marked by a lack of “natural affec-

tion,” that is, a lack of the natural affinity that family members usually have for one another. (2 Timothy 3:1, 3) Yet, even those who may have grown up in an environment that lacked affection can learn to cultivate love. How? By learning from Jehovah, who is the very Source of love and who demonstrates love and affection to all who wholeheartedly turn to him. (1 John 4:7, 8) “In case my own father and my own mother did leave me, even Jehovah himself would take me up,” said one psalmist.—Psalm 27:10.

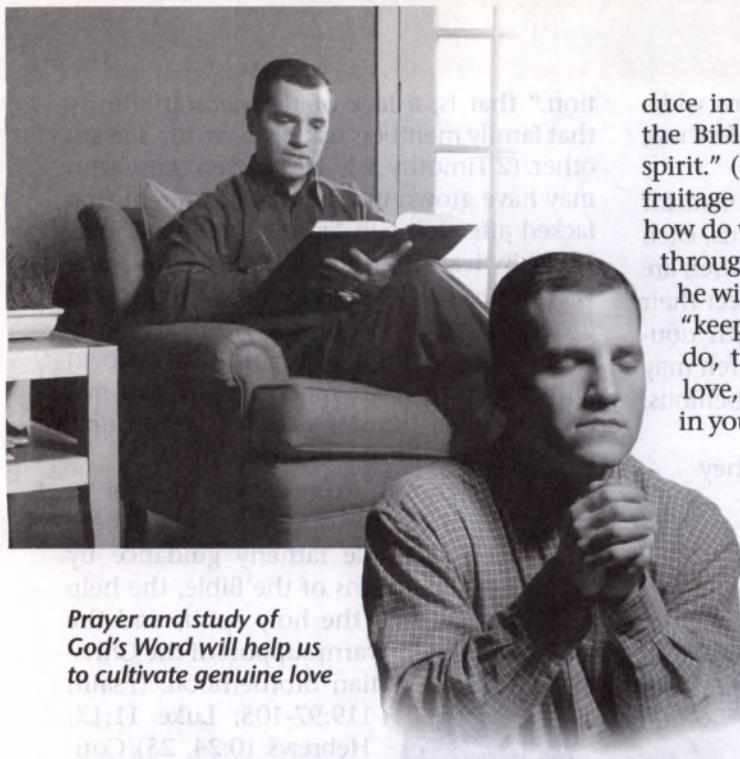
Jehovah expresses his love for us in many different ways. These include fatherly guidance by means of the Bible, the help of the holy spirit, and the warm support of the Christian brotherhood. (Psalm 119:97-105; Luke 11:13; Hebrews 10:24, 25) Consider how these three provisions can help you to grow in love for God and neighbor.

### Inspired Fatherly Guidance

To cultivate a warm bond with someone, we must get to know that person well. By revealing himself through the pages of the Bible, Jehovah invites us to draw close to him. However, reading the Bible is not enough. We must apply its teachings and experience the benefits that result. (Psalm 19:7-10) “I, Jehovah, am your God, the One teaching you to benefit yourself, the One causing you to tread in the way in which you should walk,” says Isaiah 48:17. Yes, Jehovah, the very personification of love, instructs us for *our* benefit—not because he wants to restrict our freedom with needless rules and regulations.

An accurate knowledge of the Bible also helps us to grow in love for our fellow





**Prayer and study of God's Word will help us to cultivate genuine love**

humans. This is because Bible truth teaches us God's view of humans and shows us the principles that should govern our dealings with one another. With such information, we have a solid basis for cultivating love of neighbor. The apostle Paul said: "This is what I continue praying, that your love may abound yet more and more *with accurate knowledge* and full discernment."—Philippians 1:9.

To illustrate how love can be properly directed by "accurate knowledge," consider the fundamental truth stated at Acts 10:34, 35: "God is not partial, but in every nation the man that fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him." If God assesses people by their righteous deeds and godly fear, not by their nationality or race, should we not view our fellowman with similar impartiality?—Acts 17:26, 27; 1 John 4:7-11, 20, 21.

### **Love—A Fruit of God's Spirit**

Just as timely rain on an orchard contributes to a good harvest, God's spirit can pro-

duce in receptive individuals qualities that the Bible describes as "the fruitage of the spirit." (Galatians 5:22, 23) Foremost in this fruitage is love. (1 Corinthians 13:13) But how do we obtain God's spirit? A vital way is through prayer. If we pray for God's spirit, he will give it to us. (Luke 11:9-13) Do you "keep on" praying for holy spirit? If you do, then its precious fruitage, including love, should become ever more manifest in your life.

However, there is another type of spirit that works in opposition to God's spirit. The Bible calls this "the spirit of the world." (1 Corinthians 2:12; Ephesians 2:2) It is an evil influence, and its source is none other than Satan the Devil, "the ruler of this world" of mankind alienated from God. (John 12:31) Like wind that whips up dust and litter, "the spirit of the world" stirs up hurtful desires that corrode love and cater to the weaknesses of the flesh.—Galatians 5:19-21.

People absorb that evil spirit when they expose themselves to materialistic, me-first thinking, to violent attitudes, and to the distorted and often perverted view of love that is so common in the world. If you want to grow in genuine love, you must firmly resist the spirit of the world. (James 4:7) Do not, however, trust in your own strength; call on Jehovah for help. His spirit—the most powerful force in the universe—can fortify you and give you success.—Psalm 121:2.

### **Learn Love From the Christian Brotherhood**

Just as children learn to show love by experiencing it in the home, all of us—young and old—can grow in love by associating with other Christians. (John 13:34, 35) Indeed, one of the key functions of the Christian congregation is to provide an environment

in which individuals can "spur one another on toward love and good deeds."—Hebrews 10:24, *New International Version*.

Such love is especially appreciated by those who may have been "skinned and thrown about" in the loveless world around us. (Matthew 9:36) Experience has shown that loving relationships in adulthood can overcome many of the bad effects of a childhood deprived of love. How important, therefore, that all dedicated Christians extend a truly heartfelt welcome to new ones who come into their midst!

### "Love Never Fails"

The Bible says that "love never fails." (1 Corinthians 13:8) How is that so? The apostle Paul tells us: "Love is long-suffering and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, does not get puffed up, does not behave indecently, does not look for its own interests, does not become provoked. It does not keep account of the injury." (1 Corinthians 13:4, 5) Clearly, this love is no fanciful notion or superficial sentiment. On the contrary—those showing it are aware of and acknowledge life's disappointments and pains, but they do not allow these to destroy their love for fellowman. Such love truly is "a perfect bond of union."

—Colossians 3:12-14.

Consider the example of a 17-year-old Christian girl in Korea. When she began to serve Jehovah God, her family disapproved and she had to move out of the house. However, instead of becoming angry, she prayed about the matter, letting God's Word and spirit mold her thinking. Thereafter, she wrote to her family often, filling her letters with the genuine warm affection that she felt for them. In response, her two older brothers began to study the Bible and are now dedicated Christians. Her mother and younger brother also accepted Bible truth. Lastly, her father, who had been bitterly opposed, had a change of heart. The Witness girl writes: "We all married fellow Christians, and our family of united worshipers now totals 23." What a victory for love!

Do you want to cultivate genuine love and help others to do the same? Then turn to Jehovah, the Source of that precious quality. Yes, take his Word to heart, pray for holy spirit, and regularly associate with the Christian brotherhood. (Isaiah 11:9; Matthew 5:5) How heartwarming it is to know that soon all the wicked will be gone, leaving only those who practice genuine Christian love! Truly, love is the key to happiness and life.—Psalm 37:10, 11; 1 John 3:14.





## The Noblest Kind of Love

IN BY far the majority of instances in the Christian Greek Scriptures, or New Testament, the word "love" is a translation of the Greek word *a·ga'pe*.

Explaining the meaning of that term, the reference work *Insight on the Scriptures*\* says: "[*A·ga'pe*] is not sentimentality, based on mere personal attachment, as is usually thought of, but is a moral or social love based on deliberate assent of the will as a matter of principle, duty, and propriety, sincerely seeking the other's good according to what is right. *A·ga'pe* (love) transcends personal en-

mities, never allowing these to cause one to abandon right principles and to retaliate in kind."

*A·ga'pe* can also include deep feeling. "Have intense love [*a·ga'pe*] for one another," admonished the apostle Peter. (1 Peter 4:8) Thus, it could be said that *a·ga'pe* involves the heart as well as the mind. Why not consider some scriptures that show the power and scope of this noble form of love? The following references may be helpful: Matthew 5:43-47; John 15:12, 13; Romans 13:8-10; Ephesians 5:2, 25, 28; 1 John 3:15-18; 4:16-21.

\* Published by Jehovah's Witnesses.



# "LOOK! THIS IS OUR GOD"

*"Look! This is our God. We have hoped in him, and he will save us. This is Jehovah."*—ISAIAH 25:9.

**M**Y FRIEND." That is how Jehovah, the Creator of heaven and earth, referred to the patriarch Abraham. (Isaiah 41:8) Just imagine—a mere human enjoying a friendship with the Sovereign Lord of the universe! You may wonder, 'Is it possible for me to be that close to God?'

<sup>2</sup> The Bible assures us that a close relationship with God is within reach. Abraham was granted such closeness because he "put faith in Jehovah." (James 2:23) Today, too, Jehovah's "intimacy is with the upright ones." (Proverbs 3:32) At James 4:8, the Bible urges us: "Draw close to God, and he will draw close

1, 2. (a) How did Jehovah refer to the patriarch Abraham, and what might this cause us to wonder about? (b) How does the Bible assure us that a close relationship with God is within reach?

to you." Clearly, if we take steps to draw close to Jehovah, he will respond. Indeed, he will draw close to us. But do these inspired words mean that we—sinful, imperfect humans—take the first step? Not at all. Intimacy with Jehovah is possible only because our loving God has taken two important steps.

—Psalm 25:14.

<sup>3</sup> First, Jehovah arranged for Jesus "to give his soul a ransom in exchange for many." (Matthew 20:28) That ransom sacrifice makes it possible for us to be close to God. The Bible states: "As for us, we love, because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19) Yes, since God "first loved us," he laid the foundation for us to enter into friendship with him. Second,

3. Jehovah has taken what two steps to make it possible for us to enjoy a friendship with him?

The information discussed in these two study articles is based on the book *Draw Close to Jehovah*, which was released at the district conventions that were held around the world during 2002/03.—See the article

"It Filled a Void in My Heart," on page 20.

Jehovah has revealed himself to us. In any friendship we forge, the bond is based on truly knowing the other person, admiring and valuing his distinctive traits. Consider what this means. If Jehovah were a hidden, unknowable God, we could never be close to him. Yet, far from concealing himself, Jehovah wants us to come to know him. (Isaiah 45:19) In his Word, the Bible, he reveals himself in terms we can comprehend—proof not only that he loves us but that he wants us to know and love him as our heavenly Father.

<sup>4</sup> Have you ever seen a small child point out his father to his friends and then say with innocent joy and pride, “That’s my daddy”? God’s worshipers have every reason to feel similarly about Jehovah. The Bible foretells a time when faithful people will exclaim: “Look! This is our God.” (Isaiah 25:8, 9) The more insight we gain into Jehovah’s qualities, the more we will feel that we have the best Father and the closest Friend imaginable. Yes, grasping Jehovah’s qualities gives us many reasons for drawing closer to him. So let us examine how the Bible reveals Jehovah’s cardinal attributes—power, justice, wisdom, and love. In this article, we will discuss the first three of these qualities.

### **“Exalted in Power”**

<sup>5</sup> Jehovah is “exalted in power.” (Job 37:23) Jeremiah 10:6 says: “In no way is there anyone like you, O Jehovah. You are great, and your name is great in mightiness.” Unlike any creature, Jehovah has *unlimited* power. For that reason, he alone is called “the Almighty.” (Revelation 15:3) Jehovah uses his awesome power to create, to destroy, to protect, and to restore. Consider just two examples—his creative power and his protective power.

4. How will we feel about Jehovah as we get to know his qualities better?
5. Why is it fitting that Jehovah alone is called “the Almighty,” and in what ways does he use his awesome power?



*Like a shepherd who carries a lamb in his bosom, Jehovah tenderly cares for His sheep*

<sup>6</sup> When you stand outside on a bright summer day, what do you feel on your skin? The warmth of the sun. Really, though, you are feeling the results of Jehovah’s creative power. How powerful is the sun? At its core, its temperature is about 27 million degrees Fahrenheit. If you could take a pinhead-sized piece of the sun’s core and put it here on the earth, you could not safely stand within 90 miles of that tiny heat source! Every second, the sun emits energy equivalent to the explosion of many hundreds of millions of nuclear bombs. Yet, the earth orbits at just the right distance from that awesome thermonuclear furnace. Too close, and earth’s

- 6, 7. How powerful is the sun, and to what important truth does it testify?

water would vaporize; too far, and it would all freeze. Either extreme would render our planet lifeless.

<sup>7</sup> Although their very lives depend upon the sun, many people take it for granted. Thus, they miss what the sun can teach us. Psalm 74:16 says of Jehovah: "You . . . prepared the luminary, even the sun." Yes, the sun glorifies Jehovah, "the Maker of heaven and earth." (Psalm 146:6) Even so, it is just one of the numerous creations that teach us about Jehovah's immense power. The more we learn about Jehovah's creative power, the more profound our awe becomes.

<sup>8</sup> Jehovah also uses his vast power to protect his servants and to care for them. The Bible uses some vivid yet touching word pictures to describe Jehovah's promises of protective care. Note, for example, Isaiah 40:11. Jehovah there likens himself to a shepherd and his people to sheep. We read: "Like a shepherd he will shepherd his own drove. With his arm he will collect together the lambs; and in his bosom he will carry them. Those giving suck he will conduct with care." Can you visualize what is described in that verse?

<sup>9</sup> Few animals are as helpless as domestic sheep. The shepherd of Bible times had to be courageous to protect his sheep from wolves, bears, and lions. (1 Samuel 17:34-36; John 10:10-13) But there were times when protecting and caring for the sheep called for tenderness. For example, when a sheep gave birth far from the fold, how would the shepherd keep the defenseless newborn lamb safe? He would carry it, perhaps for days, "in his bosom"—the loose folds of his upper garment. How, though, would a little lamb come to be

8, 9. (a) What tender word picture shows us Jehovah's willingness to protect and care for his worshippers? (b) The shepherd of Bible times provided what care for his sheep, and what does this teach us about our Great Shepherd?

in the shepherd's bosom? The lamb might approach the shepherd and even nudge his leg. It is the shepherd, however, who would have to bend over, reach out and pick up the lamb, and place it in the security of his bosom. What a tender picture of the willingness of our Great Shepherd to protect and care for his servants!

<sup>10</sup> Jehovah has done more than just *promise* protection. In Bible times, he demonstrated in miraculous ways that he is able "to deliver people of godly devotion out of trial." (2 Peter 2:9) What about today? We know that he does not use his power to protect us from all calamity now. He does, however, provide something more important—spiritual protection. Our loving God protects us from spiritual harm by equipping us with what we need in order to endure trials and to safeguard our relationship with him. For example, Luke 11:13 states: "If you, although being wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more so will the Father in heaven give holy spirit to those asking him!" That powerful force can make us equal to any trial or problem we may face. (2 Corinthians 4:7) Jehovah thus works to preserve our life, not just for a few short years, but for eternity. With that prospect in mind, we may indeed view any suffering in this system as "momentary and light." (2 Corinthians 4:17) Are we not drawn to a God who so lovingly uses his power in our behalf?

### "Jehovah Is a Lover of Justice"

<sup>11</sup> Jehovah does what is right and fair, and he does so consistently, without partiality. Divine justice is, not a cold, harsh quality

10. What protection does Jehovah provide today, and why is such protection especially important?

11, 12. (a) Why does Jehovah's justice draw us to him? (b) What conclusion did David reach regarding Jehovah's justice, and how can these inspired words comfort us?

that repels us, but an endearing quality that draws us to Jehovah. The Bible clearly describes the heartwarming nature of this attribute. Let us, then, consider three ways in which Jehovah exercises his justice.

<sup>12</sup> First, Jehovah's justice moves him to show faithfulness and loyalty toward his servants. The psalmist David came to appreciate firsthand this facet of Jehovah's justice. From his own experience and from his study of God's ways, what conclusion did David reach? He declared: "Jehovah is a lover of justice, and he will not leave his loyal ones. To time indefinite they will certainly be guarded." (Psalm 37:28) What comforting assurance! Our God will never for one moment abandon those who are loyal to him. We can therefore count on his closeness and his loving care. His justice guarantees this!—Proverbs 2:7, 8.

<sup>13</sup> Second, divine justice is sensitive to the needs of the afflicted. Jehovah's concern for disadvantaged ones is evident in the Law he gave to Israel. For example, the Law made provisions to ensure that orphans and widows were cared for. (Deuteronomy 24:17-21) Recognizing how difficult life could be for such families, Jehovah himself became their fatherly Judge and Protector. (Deuteronomy 10:17, 18) He warned the Israelites that if they victimized defenseless women and children, he would hear the outcry of such ones. "My anger will indeed blaze," he stated, as recorded at Exodus 22:22-24. While anger is not one of God's dominant qualities, he is provoked to righteous indignation by deliberate acts of injustice, especially when the victims are vulnerable ones.—Psalm 103:6.

<sup>14</sup> Third, at Deuteronomy 10:17, the Bible assures us that Jehovah "treats none with par-

13. How is Jehovah's concern for disadvantaged ones evident in the Law he gave to Israel?

14. What is a truly remarkable evidence of Jehovah's impartiality?

tiality nor accepts a bribe." Unlike many humans with power or influence, Jehovah is not swayed by material wealth or outward appearance. He is free from bias or favoritism. A truly remarkable evidence of his impartiality is this: The opportunity of becoming his true worshipers, with endless life in view, is not restricted to an elite few. Rather, Acts 10:34, 35 states: "God is not partial, but in every nation the man that fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him." This prospect is open to all regardless of their social standing, the color of their skin, or the country in which they live. Is that not true justice at its very best? Indeed, a better understanding of Jehovah's justice draws us to him!

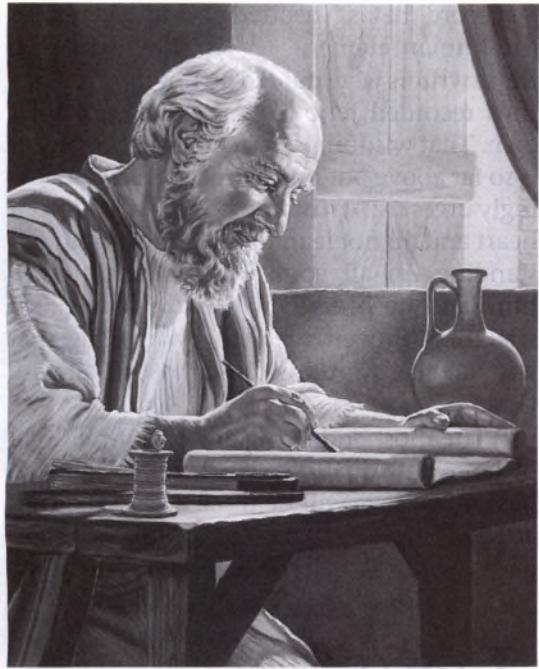
### "O the Depth of God's . . . Wisdom!"

<sup>15</sup> The apostle Paul was moved to exclaim, as recorded at Romans 11:33: "O the depth of God's . . . wisdom and knowledge!" Yes, as we contemplate the various aspects of Jehovah's vast wisdom, we cannot help but be filled with awe. How, though, can we define this quality? Wisdom brings knowledge, discernment, and understanding together and puts them to work. Drawing upon his breadth of knowledge and his depth of understanding, Jehovah always makes the best decisions possible, carrying them out by means of the best course of action conceivable.

<sup>16</sup> What are some specific evidences of Jehovah's vast wisdom? Says Psalm 104:24: "How many your works are, O Jehovah! All of them in wisdom you have made. The earth is full of your productions." Indeed, the more we learn about the things Jehovah has made, the more we find ourselves awed by his wisdom. Why, scientists have learned much from studying Jehovah's creations! There is

15. What is wisdom, and how does Jehovah display it?

16, 17. How do Jehovah's creations testify to his vast wisdom? Give an example.



*Jehovah's wisdom is seen in the way  
the Bible was written*

even a field of engineering, called biomimetics, that seeks to mimic designs found in nature.

<sup>17</sup> For instance, perhaps you have gazed in wonder at the beauty of a spiderweb. It is indeed a marvel of design. Some frail-looking strands are proportionately stronger than steel, tougher than the fibers in a bulletproof vest. What exactly does that mean? Imagine a web enlarged in scale until it is the size of a net used on a fishing boat. Such a web would be so strong that it could stop a passenger plane in mid-flight! Yes, Jehovah has made all such things "in wisdom."

<sup>18</sup> The greatest evidence of Jehovah's wisdom can be found in his Word, the Bible. The wise counsel found in its pages truly shows us the best way to live. (Isaiah 48:17) But Jehovah's incomparable wisdom is also seen in the way the Bible was written. How so? In his wisdom, Jehovah chose to use humans to record his Word. If he had used angels to write the inspired Word, would the Bible have the same appeal? Granted, angels could have portrayed Jehovah from their lofty viewpoint and could have expressed their own devotion to him. But would we really have been able to identify with the perspective of perfect spirit creatures, whose knowledge, experience, and strength are far superior to our own?—Hebrews 2:6, 7.

18. How is Jehovah's wisdom seen in his use of humans to record his Word, the Bible?

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<sup>19</sup> The use of human penmen gives the Bible tremendous warmth and appeal. Its writers were men with feelings like ours. Being imperfect, they faced trials and pressures similar to our own. In some cases, they wrote in the first person about their own feelings and struggles. (2 Corinthians 12:7-10) So they penned words that no angel could have expressed. Take, for example, the words of David recorded in Psalm 51. According to the superscription, David composed this psalm after he had committed serious sin. He poured out his heart, expressing deep sorrow and begging for God's forgiveness.

19. What example shows that the use of human writers gives the Bible tremendous warmth and appeal?

### Can You Remember?

- What steps has Jehovah taken to make it possible for us to cultivate intimacy with him?
- What are some examples of Jehovah's creative power and of his protective power?
- In what ways does Jehovah exercise his justice?
- How is Jehovah's wisdom seen in his creations as well as in the Bible?

Verses 2 and 3 say: "Thoroughly wash me from my error, and cleanse me even from my sin. For my transgressions I myself know, and my sin is in front of me constantly." Notice verse 5: "Look! With error I was brought forth with birth pains, and in sin my mother conceived me." Verse 17 adds: "The sacrifices to God are a broken spirit; a heart broken and crushed, O God, you will not despise." Can you not feel the writer's anguish? Who but an imperfect human could express such sentiments?

<sup>20</sup> Through his use of such imperfect humans, Jehovah provided just what we need

20, 21. (a) Why can it be said that despite the use of human writers, the Bible contains Jehovah's wisdom? (b) What will be discussed in the next article?

—a record that is "inspired of God" yet retains the human element. (2 Timothy 3:16) Yes, those writers were guided by holy spirit. They thus recorded Jehovah's wisdom, not their own. That wisdom is perfectly trustworthy. It is so far above our own wisdom that God lovingly urges us: "Trust in Jehovah with all your heart and do not lean upon your own understanding. In all your ways take notice of him, and he himself will make your paths straight." (Proverbs 3:5, 6) By heeding that wise advice, we draw closer to our all-wise God.

<sup>21</sup> The most endearing and beautiful of all of Jehovah's qualities is love. How Jehovah has shown love will be discussed in the next article.

## "GOD IS LOVE"

*"He that does not love has not come to know God, because God is love."*—1 JOHN 4:8.

ALL of Jehovah's attributes are sterling, perfect, and appealing. But the most endearing of all of Jehovah's qualities is love. Nothing else draws us so powerfully to Jehovah as his love. Happily, love is also his dominant quality. How do we know that?

<sup>2</sup> The Bible says something about love that it never says about Jehovah's other cardinal attributes. The Scriptures do not say that God is power or that God is justice or even that God is wisdom. He *possesses* those qualities and is the ultimate source of all three. About love, though, something more profound is said at 1 John 4:8: "God is love." Yes, love runs very deep in Jehovah. It is his very

1-3. (a) What statement does the Bible make about Jehovah's attribute of love, and in what way is this statement unique? (b) Why does the Bible say that "God is love"?

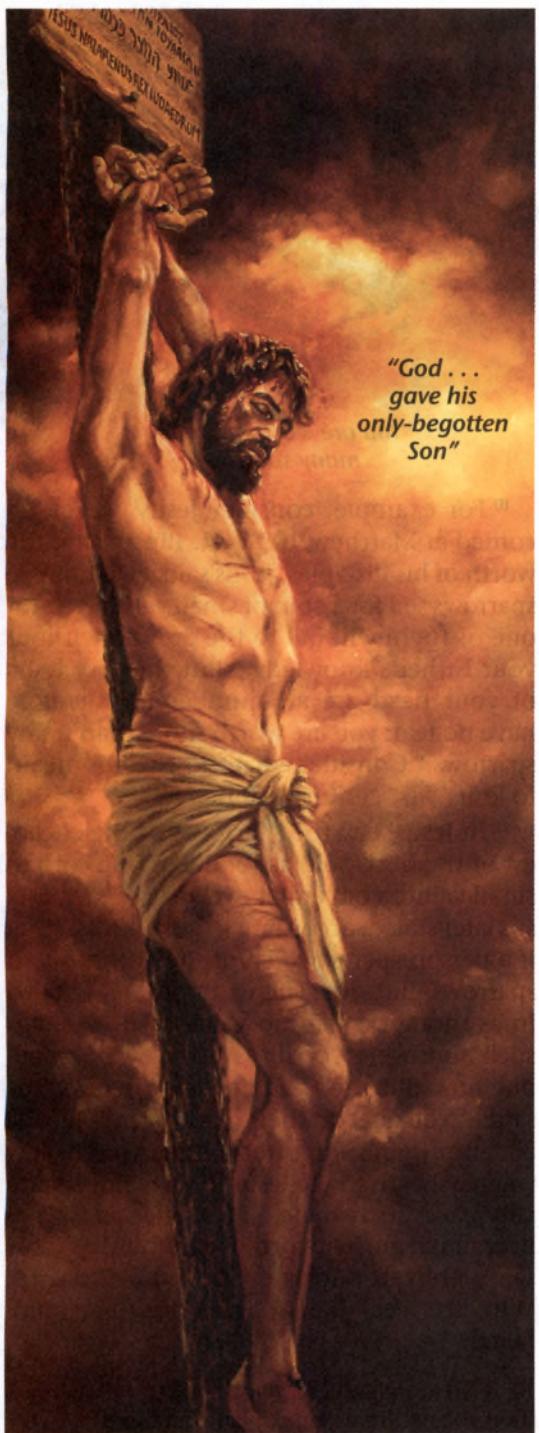
essence, or nature. Generally speaking, we might think of it this way: Jehovah's power *enables* him to act. His justice and his wisdom *guide* the way he acts. However, Jehovah's love *motivates* him to act. And his love is always reflected in the way he uses his other attributes.

<sup>3</sup> It is often said that Jehovah is the very personification of love. Hence, if we want to learn about love, we must learn about Jehovah. Let us, then, examine some of the facets of Jehovah's matchless love.

### The Greatest Act of Love

<sup>4</sup> Jehovah has shown love in many ways, but there is one that stands out above all others.

4, 5. (a) What is the greatest act of love in all history? (b) Why can we say that Jehovah and his Son are united by the strongest bond of love ever forged?



*"God . . .  
gave his  
only-begotten  
Son"*

ers. What is it? It is his sending his Son to suffer and die for us. We can safely say that this is the greatest act of love in all history. Why can we say that?

<sup>5</sup> The Bible calls Jesus "the firstborn of all creation." (Colossians 1:15) Just think—Jehovah's Son was in existence before the physical universe. How long, then, were Father and Son together? Some scientists estimate that the universe is 13 billion years old. Yet, even if this estimate is correct, it would not be long enough to represent the life span of Jehovah's firstborn Son! How was he occupied during all those ages? The Son joyfully served as his Father's "master worker." (Proverbs 8: 30; John 1:3) Jehovah and his Son worked together to bring all other things into being. What thrilling, happy times they had! Who of us, then, can begin to fathom the power of a bond that has existed over such an immense span of time? Clearly, Jehovah God and his Son are united by the strongest bond of love ever forged.

<sup>6</sup> Nevertheless, Jehovah dispatched his Son to the earth to be born as a human baby. Doing so meant that for some decades, Jehovah had to forgo intimate association with his beloved Son in heaven. With intense interest, He watched from heaven as Jesus grew up to be a perfect man. At about 30 years of age, Jesus got baptized. On that occasion the Father spoke personally from heaven: "This is my Son, the beloved, whom I have approved." (Matthew 3:17) Seeing that Jesus faithfully did all that had been prophesied, all that was asked of him, his Father must have been so pleased!—John 5:36; 17:4.

<sup>7</sup> How, though, did Jehovah feel on Nisan 14, 33 C.E., as Jesus was betrayed and

6. When Jesus got baptized, how did Jehovah express his feelings about His Son?

7, 8. (a) What was Jesus put through on Nisan 14, 33 C.E., and how was his heavenly Father affected? (b) Why did Jehovah allow his Son to suffer and die?

then arrested by an angry mob? As Jesus was ridiculed, spat upon, and struck with fists? As he was scourged, his back torn to ribbons? As he was nailed, hands and feet, to a wooden pole and left to hang there while people reviled him? How did the Father feel as his beloved Son cried out to him in the throes of agony? How did Jehovah feel as Jesus breathed his last and, for the first time since the dawn of all creation, His dear Son was not in existence?—Matthew 26:14-16, 46, 47, 56, 59, 67; 27:26, 38-44, 46; John 19:1.

<sup>8</sup> Since Jehovah has feelings, the pain he must have suffered over the death of his Son is beyond the power of our words to express. What can be expressed is Jehovah's motive for having allowed it to happen. Why did the Father subject himself to such pain? Jehovah reveals something wonderful to us at John 3:16—a Bible verse so important that it has been called the Gospel in miniature. It says: “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.” So God's motive amounted to this: love. No greater love has ever been shown.

### How Jehovah Assures Us of His Love

<sup>9</sup> However, an important question arises: Does God love us personally? Some may agree that God loves mankind in general, as John 3:16 says. But they feel, in effect, ‘God could never love *me* as an individual.’ The fact is that Satan the Devil is eager for us to believe that Jehovah neither loves us nor values us. On the other hand, no matter how unlovable or worthless we may think we are, Jehovah assures us that each of his faithful servants is of value to him.

9. What does Satan want us to believe about Jehovah's view of us, but of what does Jehovah assure us?



*“You are worth more than many sparrows”*

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<sup>10</sup> For example, consider Jesus' words recorded at Matthew 10:29-31. Illustrating the worth of his disciples, Jesus said: “Do not two sparrows sell for a coin of small value? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father's knowledge. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Therefore have no fear: you are worth more than many sparrows.” Consider what those words meant to Jesus' first-century listeners.

<sup>11</sup> In Jesus' day the sparrow was the cheapest of the birds sold as food. For one coin of small value, a buyer got two sparrows. But Jesus later stated, according to Luke 12:6, 7, that if a person spent two coins, he got, not four sparrows, but *five*. The extra bird was added in as though it had no value at all. Perhaps such birds were worthless in the eyes of men, but how did the Creator view them? Jesus said: “Not one of them [not even the one added in] goes forgotten before God.” Now we may begin to see Jesus' point. Since Jehovah places such value on a single sparrow, of how much greater worth is a human! As Jesus said, Jehovah knows every detail about us. Why, the very hairs of our head are numbered!

10, 11. How does Jesus' illustration of the sparrows show that we have value in Jehovah's eyes?

<sup>12</sup> Some might assume that Jesus was exaggerating here. Just think, though, about the resurrection. How intimately Jehovah must know us in order to re-create us! He values us so much that he remembers every detail, including our complex genetic code and all our years of memories and experiences. Numbering our hairs—of which the average human head grows about 100,000—would be a simple feat by comparison. How beautifully Jesus' words assure us that Jehovah cares for us as individuals!

<sup>13</sup> The Bible reveals something else that assures us of Jehovah's love. He looks for and values the good in us. Take, for example, good King Jehoshaphat. When the king committed a foolish act, Jehovah's prophet told him: "For this there is indignation against you from the person of Jehovah." What a sobering thought! But Jehovah's message did not end there. It went on: "Nevertheless, there are good things that have been found with you." (2 Chronicles 19:1-3) So Jehovah's righteous anger did not blind him to the "good things" about Jehoshaphat. Is it not reassuring to know that our God looks for the good in us even though we are imperfect?

### A God Who Is "Ready to Forgive"

<sup>14</sup> When we sin, the disappointment, shame, and guilt that we feel may cause us to think that we could never be worthy of serving Jehovah. Remember, though, that Jehovah is "ready to forgive." (Psalm 86:5) Yes, if we repent of our sins and strive hard not to repeat them, we may benefit from Jehovah's

12. Why can we be sure that Jesus was being realistic when he spoke of the hairs of our head being numbered?

13. How does the case of King Jehoshaphat show that Jehovah looks for the good in us even though we are imperfect?

14. When we sin, what burdensome feelings may we experience, but how may we benefit from Jehovah's forgiveness?

forgiveness. Consider how the Bible describes this marvelous facet of Jehovah's love.

<sup>15</sup> The psalmist David used a vivid expression to describe Jehovah's forgiveness: "As far as *the east is from the west*, so far has He removed our transgressions from us." (Italics ours; Psalm 103:12, *The Amplified Bible*) How far is east from west? In a sense, east is always at the utmost distance imaginable from west; the two points can never meet. One scholar notes that this expression means "as far as possible; as far as we can imagine." David's inspired words tell us that when Jehovah forgives, he puts our sins as far away from us as we can imagine.

<sup>16</sup> Have you ever tried to remove a stain from a light-colored garment? Perhaps despite your best efforts, the stain remained visible. Notice how Jehovah describes his capacity for forgiveness: "Though the sins of you people should prove to be as scarlet, they will be made *white just like snow*; though they should be red like crimson cloth, they will become even like wool." (Isaiah 1:18) The word "scarlet" denotes a bright-red color.\* "Crimson" was one of the deep colors of dyed material. We can never through our own efforts remove the stain of sin. Yet, Jehovah can take sins that are like scarlet and crimson and make them white like snow or undyed wool. So when Jehovah forgives our sins, we need not feel that we bear the stain of such sins for the rest of our life.

<sup>17</sup> In a moving song of gratitude that Hezekiah composed after he was spared from a

\* One scholar says that scarlet "was a *fast*, or *fixed* color. Neither dew, nor rain, nor washing, nor long usage, would remove it."

15. How far away from us does Jehovah put our sins?

16. When Jehovah forgives our sins, why may we feel assured that he views us as clean thereafter?

17. In what sense does Jehovah throw our sins behind his back?

deadly sickness, he said to Jehovah: “You have *thrown behind your back* all my sins.” (Isaiah 38:17) Jehovah is here portrayed as taking the sins of a repentant wrongdoer and throwing them behind Him where He neither sees them nor takes notice of them anymore. According to one reference work, the idea conveyed may be expressed: “You have made [my sins] as if they had not happened.” Is that not comforting?

<sup>18</sup> In a promise of restoration, the prophet Micah expressed his conviction that Jehovah would forgive his repentant people: “Who is a God like you, . . . passing over transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? . . . And you will throw *into the depths of the sea* all their sins.” (Micah 7:18, 19) Imagine what those words meant to people living in Bible times. Was there any chance of retrieving something that had been hurled “into the depths of the sea”? Micah’s words thus indicate that when Jehovah forgives, he removes our sins permanently.

### “The Tender Compassion of Our God”

<sup>19</sup> Compassion is another facet of Jehovah’s love. What is compassion? In the Bible, there is a close relationship between compassion and mercy. A number of Hebrew and Greek words convey the sense of compassion. For example, the Hebrew verb *ra-cham’* is often rendered “show mercy” or “have pity.” This Hebrew term, which Jehovah applies to himself, is related to the word for “womb” and can be described as “motherly compassion.”

<sup>20</sup> The Bible uses the feelings that a mother has for her baby to teach us about Jehovah’s

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18. How does the prophet Micah indicate that when Jehovah forgives, He removes our sins permanently?

19, 20. (a) What is the meaning of the Hebrew verb rendered “show mercy” or “have pity”? (b) How does the Bible use the feelings that a mother has for her baby to teach us about Jehovah’s compassion?

compassion. Isaiah 49:15 says: “Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should not have compassion [*ra-cham’*] on the son of her womb? Yes, they may forget, yet I will not forget you.” (*The Amplified Bible*) It is hard to imagine that a mother would forget to nourish and care for her nursing child. After all, an infant is helpless; day and night a baby needs its mother’s attention. Sad to say, however, maternal neglect is not unheard of, especially in these “critical times.” (2 Timothy 3:1, 3) “Yet,” Jehovah declares, “I will not forget you.” The tender compassion that Jehovah has for his servants is immeasurably



*A mother’s feelings for her baby can teach us about Jehovah’s compassion*

stronger than the most tender natural feeling that we can imagine—the compassion that a mother normally feels for her infant child.

<sup>21</sup> How does Jehovah, like a loving parent, show compassion? This quality is clearly seen in the way he dealt with Israel of old. By the end of the 16th century B.C.E., millions of Israelites were enslaved in Egypt, where they were severely oppressed. (Exodus 1:11, 14) In their distress, the Israelites cried out to Jehovah. How did the God of compassion respond?

<sup>22</sup> Jehovah's heart was touched. He said: "I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and I have heard their outcry . . . I well know the pains they suffer." (Exodus 3:7) Jehovah could not see the sufferings of his people or hear their outcries without feeling for them. Jehovah is a God of empathy. And empathy—the ability to identify with the pain of others—is akin to compassion. However, Jehovah did not just *feel* for his people; he was moved to act in their behalf. Isaiah 63:9 says: "In his love and in his compassion he himself repurchased them." With "a strong hand," he rescued the Israelites out of Egypt. (Deuteronomy 4:34) Thereafter, he provided them with miraculous food and delivered them into a fruitful land of their own.

<sup>23</sup> Jehovah does not show compassion to his people only as a group. Our loving God is deeply concerned about us as individuals. He is keenly aware of any suffering we may undergo. The psalmist said: "The eyes of Jehovah are toward the righteous ones, and his ears are toward their cry for help. Jehovah is near to those that are broken at heart; and those who are crushed in spirit he saves." (Psalm 34:15, 18) How does Jehovah help us

21, 22. What did the Israelites experience in ancient Egypt, and how did Jehovah respond to their outcries?

23. (a) How do the psalmist's words assure us that Jehovah is deeply concerned about us as individuals? (b) In what ways does Jehovah help us?

as individuals? He does not necessarily remove the cause of our suffering. But he has made abundant provisions for those who cry out to him for help. His Word offers practical counsel that can make a difference. In the congregation, he provides spiritually qualified overseers, who endeavor to reflect his compassion in helping others. (James 5:14, 15) As the "Hearer of prayer," Jehovah gives "holy spirit to those asking him." (Psalm 65:2; Luke 11:13) All such provisions are expressions of "the tender compassion of our God."—Luke 1:78.

<sup>24</sup> Is it not thrilling to contemplate our heavenly Father's love? In the preceding article, we were reminded that Jehovah has exercised his power, justice, and wisdom in loving ways to our benefit. And in this article, we have seen that Jehovah has directly expressed his love for mankind—and for us individually—in remarkable ways. Now, each of us does well to ask, 'How will I respond to Jehovah's love?' May you respond by loving him with your whole heart, mind, soul, and strength. (Mark 12:29, 30) May the way you live your life each day reflect your heartfelt desire to draw ever closer to Jehovah. And may Jehovah, the God who is love, draw ever closer to you—throughout all eternity!—James 4:8.

#### 24. How will you respond to Jehovah's love?

#### Do You Recall?

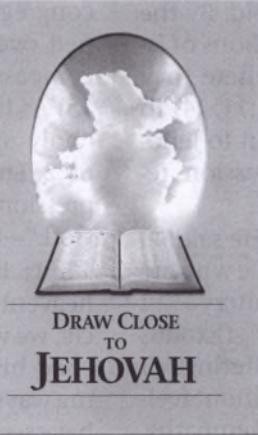
- How do we know that love is Jehovah's dominant quality?
- Why can it be said that Jehovah's sending his Son to suffer and die for us is the greatest act of love ever performed?
- How does Jehovah assure us that he loves us as individuals?
- In what vivid ways does the Bible describe Jehovah's forgiveness?

# "It Filled a Void in My Heart"

"THANK you from the bottom of my heart for the beautiful gift *Draw Close to Jehovah*. It filled a void in my heart—the need to feel loved and cherished by Jehovah. I feel so much closer to Jehovah and his dear Son now. I want to tell everyone about this book and to give a copy to all my loved ones." That is how one of Jehovah's Witnesses felt about the new 320-page book released at the "Zealous Kingdom Proclaimers" District Conventions held during 2002/03. Let us examine some features of this new book and why it was published.

## Some Features of the New Book

What does this new book contain? All the information presented in the two study articles in this issue—and a lot more! The book has 31 chapters, each about the length of a Watchtower study article. After the prologue and the first three chapters, the book is divided into four sections, one for each of Jehovah's cardinal attributes. Each section opens with an overview of the quality. The next few chapters discuss how Jehovah manifests the attribute. Each section contains a chapter on Jesus. Why? Well, Jesus said: "He that has seen me has seen the Father also." (John 14:9) A perfect reflection of Jehovah, Jesus provides us with vivid examples of God's qualities in action. Each section concludes with a chapter teaching us how to imitate Jehovah in displaying the quality under consideration. In discussing Jehovah's qualities, this new book makes reference to every book of the Bible.



The book *Draw Close to Jehovah* also contains some special features. Starting with chapter 2, each chapter contains a box entitled "Questions for Meditation." The scriptures and questions provided are not intended as a review of the chapter. Rather, they are designed to help you use the Bible to meditate deeply on the subject. It is recommended that you read each of the Scripture passages carefully. Then ponder on the question and endeavor to make personal application. Such

meditation can stir your heart, helping you draw ever closer to Jehovah.—Psalm 19:14.

Artwork in the *Draw Close to Jehovah* book was carefully researched and prepared in order to teach and to motivate. Seventeen chapters contain beautiful full-page pictures of Biblical scenes.

## Why Published?

Why was the book *Draw Close to Jehovah* published? The primary purpose of this new publication is to help us to come to know Jehovah better so that we might build a stronger personal relationship with our God.

Can you think of someone who might benefit from the *Draw Close to Jehovah* book, perhaps a Bible student or even an inactive Christian brother or sister? What about you—have you started reading this new book? If not, why not schedule time to start as soon as possible? Take time to reflect on what you read. May this new publication help you to draw ever closer to Jehovah God, so that you will proclaim his Kingdom good news with heightened joy and zeal!



## SERVING OTHERS ALLEVIATES SUFFERING

AS TOLD BY  
**JULIÁN ARIAS**

In 1988, when I was 40 years of age, my professional future seemed secure. I was the regional director of a multinational company.

With my job came a fancy car, a good salary, and a plush office in the center of Madrid, Spain. The company even hinted that they would make me their national director. Little did I realize that

my life was about to change drastically.

ONE day that year, my doctor broke the news to me that I had multiple sclerosis, an incurable disease. I was devastated. Later, when I read what multiple sclerosis can do to a person, I was frightened.\* It seemed as if the proverbial sword of Damocles would be hanging over me for the rest of my life. How could I take care of my wife, Milagros, and my three-year-old son, Ismael? How could we

cope? While I was still groping for answers to these questions, another bitter blow came my way.

About a month after my doctor told me about my illness, my supervisor called me into his office and informed me that the company needed people with a "good image." And someone with a degenerative disease—even in its early stages—did not project such an image. So right then and there, my boss fired me. Suddenly, my secular career was over!

\* Multiple sclerosis is a disorder of the central nervous system. It often causes a progressive deterioration in balance, use of limbs, and sometimes sight, speech, or comprehension.

In front of my family, I tried to put on a brave face, but I longed to be on my own, to think about my new circumstances, and to meditate on my future. I tried to fight a growing feeling of depression. What hurt me most was that overnight I had become useless in the eyes of my company.

### Finding Strength From Weakness

Thankfully, in this dark time, I could count on several sources of strength. Some 20 years earlier, I had become one of Jehovah's Witnesses. So I prayed sincerely to Jehovah about my feelings and uncertainties about the future. My wife, who shares my faith, was a tower of strength, and I had the support of some close friends whose kindness and compassion proved invaluable.—Proverbs 17:17.

Feeling a responsibility toward others also helped. I wanted to raise my son well, to teach him, play with him, and train him in the preaching work. So I could not give up. Furthermore, I was an elder in one of the congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses, and my Christian brothers and sisters there needed my support. If I allowed my affliction to undermine my faith, what sort of example would I be to others?

Inevitably, my life changed physically and economically—in some ways for the worse but in other ways for the better. I once heard a doctor say: "A disease does not destroy a person; rather, it changes him." And I have learned that the changes are not all negative.

First of all, my "thorn in the flesh" helped me to understand better the health prob-

lems of other people and to sympathize with them. (2 Corinthians 12:7) I understood as never before the words of Proverbs 3:5: "Trust in Jehovah with all your heart and do not lean upon your own understanding." Above all, my new circumstances taught me what really matters in life and what gives true satisfaction and a feeling of self-worth. There was still much I could do in Jehovah's organization. I discovered real meaning in Jesus' words: "There is more happiness in giving than there is in receiving."—Acts 20:35.



*My wife is a source of strength to me*

### A New Life

Soon after the diagnosis of my disease, I was invited to a seminar in Madrid where Christian volunteers were taught to develop cooperation between physicians and their Witness patients. Later, those volunteers were organized into Hospital Liaison Committees. For me, that seminar came at exactly the right time. I dis-

covred a better career, one that would bring me far more satisfaction than any commercial job.

We learned at the seminar that the newly formed Hospital Liaison Committees were to visit hospitals, interview doctors, and make presentations to health workers, all with the purpose of cultivating cooperation and preventing confrontations. The committees help fellow Witnesses to find doctors who are willing to perform medical procedures without the use of blood. Of course, as a layman, I had a lot to learn about medical terms, medical ethics, and hospital organization. Still, after that seminar I went home a new man, armed with a new challenge that excited me.

## Hospital Visits—A Source of Satisfaction

Even though my disease was slowly and inexorably crippling me, my responsibilities as a member of a Hospital Liaison Committee grew. I had been given a disability pension, so I had time available to make hospital visits. Despite occasional disappointments, these visits proved to be easier and more rewarding than I expected. Although I am now confined to a wheelchair, this has not been a major impediment. A fellow committee member always accompanies me. Furthermore, doctors are used to talking to people in wheelchairs, and sometimes they seem to listen with greater respect when they observe the effort I make to visit them.

Over the last ten years, I have visited hundreds of doctors. Some were willing to help us almost from the outset. Dr. Juan Duarte—a heart surgeon in Madrid who takes pride in respecting a patient's conscience—immediately offered his services. Since then, he has performed more than 200 operations without the use of blood on Witness patients from many parts of Spain. Over the years more and more doctors have begun performing bloodless surgery. Our regular visits played some part, but the progress was also due to medical advances and the fine results achieved in bloodless surgery. And we are convinced that Jehovah has blessed our efforts.

I have been especially encouraged by the response of some heart surgeons who specialize in treating children. For two years we visited one team of two surgeons and their anesthesiologists. We supplied them with medical literature that explained what other doctors are doing in this field. Our efforts were rewarded in 1999 during the Medical Conference on Infantile Cardiovascular Surgery. The two surgeons—ably directed by a cooperative surgeon from England—performed an extremely difficult operation on a Witness baby

whose aortic valve required modification.\* I rejoiced with the parents when one of the surgeons emerged from the operating room to announce that the operation had been a success and the family's conscience had been respected. Now these two doctors routinely accept Witness patients from all over Spain.



*Conversing with heart surgeon  
Dr. Juan Duarte*

What I find truly gratifying about such cases is the realization that I can help my Christian brothers. Usually, when they contact a Hospital Liaison Committee, it is one of the most difficult times in their life. They face an operation, and the doctors in a local hospital are unwilling or unable to treat them without blood. However, when the brothers learn that there are cooperative surgeons in all medical fields here in Madrid, they are greatly relieved. I have seen the expression on a brother's face change from concern to serenity, just by our presence at his side in the hospital.

\* This operation is known as the Ross procedure.

## A Wife's Viewpoint

For a wife, living with a mate who suffers from multiple sclerosis is difficult—mentally, emotionally, and physically. I have to be reasonable in what I plan to do and willing to disregard unnecessary anxiety about the future. (Matthew 6: 34) Nevertheless, living with suffering can bring out the best in a person. Our marriage is stronger than before, and my relationship with Jehovah is closer. The life stories of others in similarly stressful circumstances have also strengthened me greatly. I share the satisfaction that Julián feels as a result of his valuable service in behalf of the brothers, and I have found that Jehovah never fails us, even though each day may bring a new challenge.

## The World of Judges and Medical Ethics

In recent years, members of Hospital Liaison Committees have also made visits on judges. During those visits, we give them a publication called *Family Care and Medical Management for Jehovah's Witnesses*, which was especially prepared to inform such officials of our position on the use of blood and the availability of nonblood medical alternatives. There was a great need for these visits, since at one time it was not uncommon in Spain for judges to authorize doctors to give a transfusion against the wishes of the patient.

Judges' chambers are impressive places, and on my first visit, I felt very small traveling along the hallways in my wheelchair. To make matters worse, we had a slight accident, and I toppled out of the chair onto my knees. A few judges and lawyers who saw my predicament kindly came to my aid, but I felt foolish in front of them.

Although the judges were unsure of our reasons for visiting them, most treated us

kindly. The first judge I visited had already been pondering our position, and he said he would like to talk to us at length. On our following visit, he personally wheeled me into his chambers and listened intently. The fine results from this initial visit encouraged my companions and me to overcome our fears, and we soon saw further good results.

During that same year, we left a copy of *Family Care* with another judge, who received us kindly and promised to read the information. I gave him my telephone number in case he needed to contact us in an emergency. Two weeks later he phoned to say that a local surgeon had asked him to authorize a transfusion to be given to a Witness who needed surgery. The judge told us that he wanted us to help him find a solution that would respect the desire of the Witness to avoid blood. We had no great difficulty in finding another hospital, where the surgeons successfully performed the operation without blood. The judge was delighted when he heard the outcome, and he assured us that he would look for similar solutions in the future.

During my hospital visits, the question of medical ethics often arose, since we wanted

## A Son's Viewpoint

In my father's endurance and positive spirit, I find an excellent example, and I feel useful when I wheel him around. I know that I can't always do what I would like to do. I am now a teenager, but when I get older, I would like to serve as a member of a Hospital Liaison Committee. I know from the promises of the Bible that suffering is temporary and that many brothers and sisters suffer more than we do.

doctors to take into account the rights and conscience of the patient. One cooperative hospital in Madrid invited me to participate in a course they were offering on ethics. This course enabled me to present our Bible-based viewpoint to many specialists in this field. It also helped me to comprehend the many difficult decisions doctors have to make.

One of the teachers of the course, Professor Diego Gracia, regularly organizes a prestigious master's course in ethics for Spanish doctors and has become a firm supporter of our right to informed consent in the matter of blood transfusions.\* Our regular contact with him led to an invitation for some representatives of the Spain branch office of Jehovah's Witnesses to explain our stand to Professor Gracia's postgraduate students, some of whom are regarded as the best doctors in the country.

### Facing Up to Reality

Of course, this satisfying work in behalf of fellow believers has not solved all my personal problems. My disease advances relentlessly. Fortunately, however, my mind is alert. Thanks to my wife and my son, who never complain, I can still handle my responsibilities. Without their help and support, this would be impossible. I cannot even button my trousers or put on an overcoat. I especially enjoy preaching every Saturday with my son, Ismael, who wheels me around so that I can talk to different householders. And I can still care for my duties as a congregation elder.

I have had some traumatic moments during the last 12 years or so. Sometimes, seeing how my disability affects my family has caused me more pain than the actual illness. I know that they suffer, albeit in silence. Not long ago, in the space of one year, my



*My son and I enjoy working together in the ministry*

mother-in-law and my father died. During that same year, I found myself unable to get around without a wheelchair. My father, who was living in our home, died of another degenerative disease. Milagros, who looked after him, felt as if she was witnessing what will happen to me in the future.

On the positive side, though, our family is united as we face the difficulties together. I have exchanged an executive's chair for a wheelchair, but my life is actually better now because it is fully devoted to serving others. Giving can alleviate suffering, and Jehovah does keep his promise to strengthen us in time of need. Like Paul, I can truly say: "For all things I have the strength by virtue of him who imparts power to me."—Philippians 4:13.

\* See *The Watchtower*, February 15, 1997, pages 19-20.

nei, ua numi oe tana teinaid!

21. Ua tipapa hiora oia nihio tia maidici ra, e etoru tipapa fa'auia hiora hoi ia Iehova, nao Atua, du mai oe te varua ia hoi fahou maina roto.

22. Ua faru maira Iehova ua hoi fahou maira te varua iti ra, roto ianaihio; na ora aira

23. Ua rave aira Elia tona teinaid hopoi dura adura te Ma ahiona, ua

24. Ua Elia, ua ia Atua; taia iorua ora fahou nei! parau mau te parau na Iehova roto to vaha!

*First translations of the Bible in Tahitian, 1815. Jehovah's name appears*

## PENE XVIII.

1. E MAORO aira, ua parau maira Iehova ia Elia, i te toru te matahiti te parau ra



Henry Nott (1774-1844), the principal translator of the Tahitian Bible

LMS trained people who were willing to learn native languages and serve as missionaries in the South Pacific region. The goal of these missionaries was to preach the Gospel in the language of the local people.

The island of Tahiti, which had recently been discovered, became the first missionary field for the LMS. For members of the Awakening, these islands were 'dark places' of paganism, fields ready to be harvested.

### People of Humble Background Rise to the Occasion

To gather the harvest, some 30 hastily selected and ill-prepared missionaries boarded the *Duff*, a vessel purchased by the LMS. A report lists "four consecrated pastors [without formal training], six carpenters, two shoemakers, two bricklayers, two weavers, two tailors, a storekeeper, a saddler, a domestic, a gardener, a physician, a blacksmith, a cooper, a cotton manufacturer, a hatter, a cloth manufacturer, a cabinetmaker, five spouses, and three children."

The only tools that these missionaries had in their possession for getting acquainted with the original Bible languages

Tahitian Bible: Copyright the British Library (3070.a.32); Henry Nott and letter: Collection du Musée de Tahiti et de ses îles, Punaauia, Tahiti; catechism: With permission of the London Missionary Society Papers, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand

IN 1835, Henry Nott, an English bricklayer, and John Davies, a Welsh apprentice grocer, reached the end of a colossal project. After having toiled for more than 30 years, they finally completed a translation of the entire Bible into Tahitian. What challenges did these two men of humble background face, and what were the results of their labor of love?

### "The Great Awakening"

In the second half of the 18th century, members of a Protestant movement called the Great Awakening, or simply Awakening, were preaching in village squares and near mines and factories in Britain. Their aim was to reach working-class people. The Awakening preachers enthusiastically encouraged distribution of the Bible.

Influenced by this movement, a Baptist named William Carey, contributed to the founding of the London Missionary Society (LMS), which was established in 1795. The

were a Greek-English dictionary and a Bible with a Hebrew dictionary. During the seven months at sea, the missionaries memorized some Tahitian words listed by previous visitors, mainly by the mutineers of the *Bounty*. Finally, the *Duff* reached Tahiti, and on March 7, 1797, the missionaries disembarked. However, one year later most had become discouraged and left. Only seven missionaries remained.

Of those seven, Henry Nott, the former bricklayer, was only 23 years old. Judging from the first letters that he wrote, he had only a basic education. Nevertheless, from the outset he proved himself to be gifted at learning the Tahitian language. He was described as sincere, easygoing, and pleasant.

In 1801, Nott was selected to teach Tahitian to nine newly arrived missionaries. Among them was the 28-year-old Welshman John Davies, who proved to be a capable student and a hard worker with a mild temperament and a generous nature. Before long, these two men decided to translate the Bible into Tahitian.

### A Daunting Task

Translating into Tahitian, though, proved to be a daunting task, for Tahitian was not yet a written language. The missionaries had to learn it entirely by listening. They had neither a dictionary nor a grammar book. The exhaling sounds of the language interrupted by glottal stops, its numerous successive vowels (as many as five in a single word), and its rare consonants drove the missionaries to despair. "Many words consist of nothing but vowels, and each has a sound," they lamented. They confessed that they were not able "to catch the sound of the words, with that exactness that is necessary." They even thought they heard sounds that did not exist!

To make things worse, from time to time, some words were banned, or taboo, in Tahitian and thus had to be replaced. Synonyms presented another headache. For the word "prayer," there were more than 70 terms in Tahitian. The Tahitian syntax, which is totally different from that of English, was another challenge. Despite the difficulties, little by little the missionaries drew up lists of words that Davies would eventually publish 50 years later as a dictionary with 10,000 entries.

Then there was the challenge of writing Tahitian. The missionaries tried to do so by using the established English orthography. However, the English use of the Latin alphabet did not match the Tahitian sounds. Thus, endless discussions on phonetics and spelling ensued. Often the missionaries coined new spellings, as they were the very first ones in the South Seas to cast an oral language into a written mold. Little did they realize that their work would later be a model for many of the languages of the South Pacific.

### Short on Tools but Rich in Resourcefulness

The translators had only a few reference books at their disposal. The LMS directed that they use the *Textus Receptus* and the *King James Version* as basic texts. Nott asked the LMS to send additional dictionaries in Hebrew and Greek as well as Bibles in both languages. It is not known whether he ever received those books. As for Davies, he received some scholarly books from Welsh friends. Records show that he possessed at least a Greek dictionary, a Hebrew Bible, a New Testament in Greek, and the *Septuagint*.

In the meantime, the preaching activity of the missionaries remained unfruitful. Although the missionaries had been in Tahiti for 12 years, not even one local inhabitant had been baptized. Eventually, unremitting

Pifoi Hoi roa itua moe.  
O.m. Oua i teau ion i.  
P. Ichoua.  
O.m. Ewha te Atua.  
P. E varua.  
O.m. Nauai hamani te riji te venua  
e te riji.  
P. Na Ichoua moe.  
O.m. Nauai hamani te taata.  
P. Na Ichoua.  
Im. No te eahau e hamani ei Ichoua te tauta. I bin Beth y.  
B. Yisti te tauta inua, in faro atie taoa hauan. Si omoedel.

### Bilingual Tahitian and Welsh catechism of 1801, where God's name appears

civil wars compelled all the missionaries except for the resolute Nott to flee to Australia. For a while he was the only missionary remaining in the Windward Islands of the Society Islands group, but he had to follow King Pomare II when the king fled to the nearby island of Moorea.

However, Nott's move did not stop the translation work, and after Davies had spent two years in Australia, he rejoined Nott. In the meantime, Nott had undertaken a study of Greek and Hebrew and had mastered those languages. Consequently, he started to translate some parts of the Hebrew Scriptures into Tahitian. He selected Bible passages that contained accounts to which the native people could easily relate.

Working closely with Davies, Nott then started to translate the Gospel of Luke, which was completed in September 1814. He composed a rendering that sounded natural in Tahitian, while Davies checked the translation against the original texts. In 1817, King Pomare II asked if he could personally print the first page of the Gospel of Luke. He did so on a small manual press brought to Moorea by missionaries. The story of the Tahitian translation of the Bible would not be complete without mentioning a faith-

ful Tahitian named Tuahine, who remained with the missionaries throughout the years and helped them to grasp the nuances of the language.

### The Translation Is Completed

In 1819, after six years of hard work, the translation of the Gospels, Acts of Apostles, and the book of Psalms was completed. A printing press, brought along by newly arrived missionaries, facilitated the printing and distribution of these Bible books.

A period of intense activity of translation, proofreading, and revision followed. After living in Tahiti for 28 years, Nott fell ill in 1825, and the LMS allowed him to sail back to England. Happily, by then the translation of the Greek Scriptures was almost completed. He continued translating the rest of the Bible during his journey to England and his stay there. Nott returned to Tahiti in 1827. Eight years later, in December 1835, he put down his quill. After more than 30 years of hard work, the whole Bible had been translated.

In 1836, Nott traveled back to England in order to have the whole Tahitian Bible printed in London. On June 8, 1838, an elated Nott presented Queen Victoria with the first printed edition of the Bible in Tahitian. Understandably, this was an intensely emotion-

### IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

Why We Cannot Stand Alone

Do You Have "a Waiting Attitude?"

Think Straight—Act Wisely

al moment for the former bricklayer who 40 years earlier set sail on the *Duff* and immersed himself in the Tahitian culture to complete this huge, lifelong task.

Two months later, Nott headed back to the South Pacific with 27 crates containing the first 3,000 copies of the complete Bible in Tahitian. After making a stop in Sydney, he fell ill again, but he refused to be separated from the precious crates. After recovering, he arrived in Tahiti in 1840, where the population led a virtual assault on his cargo, seeking to obtain copies of the Tahitian Bible. Nott died in Tahiti in May 1844 at the age of 70.

### A Far-Reaching Impact

Nott's work lived on, however. His translation had a far-reaching effect on Polynesian languages. By putting Tahitian in written form, the missionaries preserved that language. One author stated: "Nott fixed the classic grammatical Tahitian. It will always be necessary to resort to the Bible to learn the Tahitian language in its purity." The unremitting work of these translators saved thousands of words from oblivion. A century later, one author said: "The remarkable Tahitian Bible of Nott is the masterpiece of the Tahitian language—everybody agrees with it."

This important work not only benefited the Tahitians but also established a foundation for other translations in South Pacific languages. For example, translators in the Cook Islands and Samoa used it as a model. "I have essentially followed Mr. Nott, whose translation I have carefully examined," declared one translator. It was reported that another translator 'had before him the Hebrew Psalter and the English and Tahitian versions' as he was 'translating one of David's psalms into Samoan.'

Following the example of members of the Awakening in England, the missionaries in



*Protestant church with Jehovah's name on the front, island of Huahine, French Polynesia*

Tahiti enthusiastically promoted literacy. In fact, for more than a century, the Bible was the only book available to the Tahitian population. It thus became a vital element in Tahitian culture.

The large number of occurrences of the divine name in the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures constitutes one of the finest features of the *Nott Version*. As a result, today Jehovah's name is well-known in Tahiti and its islands. It even appears on some Protestant churches. However, God's name is now essentially associated with Jehovah's Witnesses and their zealous preaching activity, in which they make extensive use of the Tahitian Bible translated by Nott and his collaborators. And the strenuous efforts made by such translators as Henry Nott remind us of how grateful we should be for having God's Word readily available to most of mankind today.

## Questions From Readers

**At Hebrews 2:14, why is Satan called "the one having the means to cause death"?**

In brief, Paul meant that Satan, personally or through his agents, can cause the physical death of humans. In harmony with that, Jesus called Satan "a manslayer when he began."—John 8:44.

Misunderstanding may arise over Hebrews 2:14 because of the way some translations render it, saying that Satan has the "power of death" or the "power over death." (*King James Version; Revised Standard; New International Version; Jerusalem Bible*) Such renderings could make it appear that Satan has unlimited ability to kill anyone he chooses. However, that is clearly not the case. If it were, he would very likely have wiped Jehovah's worshipers off the face of the earth a long time ago.—Genesis 3:15.

The Greek expression rendered "power over death" in some translations and "means to cause death" in the *New World Translation* is "*kra'tos tou tha-na'tou*." *Tou tha-na'tou* is a form of the expression meaning "death." *Kra'tos* basically means "force, strength, might." According to the *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, it denotes "the presence and significance of force or strength rather than its exercise." Hence, in Hebrews 2:14, Paul does not imply that Satan has the ultimate power over death. Rather, he is pointing to Satan's ability or potential to cause death.

How does Satan exercise "the means to cause death"? In the book of Job, we read of one instance that may be somewhat exceptional. The account says that Satan used a storm to 'cause the death' of Job's children. Notice, though, that Satan could do this only with God's permission, which was given because a vital issue was being decided. (Job 1:12, 18, 19) Indeed, Satan was not able to kill Job himself. Permission for that was withheld. (Job 2:6) This shows that even though, on occasion, Satan has been able to

cause the death of faithful humans, we need not fear that he can snuff out our lives at will.

Satan has also caused death through human agents. Thus, many Christians have died for their faith, some being murdered by enraged mobs or unjustly executed on the orders of government officials or corrupt judges.—Revelation 2:13.

Further, Satan has sometimes caused death by playing on human weaknesses. Back in the days of Israel, the prophet Balaam counseled the Moabites to entice the Israelites "to commit unfaithfulness toward Jehovah." (Numbers 31:16) That resulted in the death of more than 23,000 Israelites. (Numbers 25:9; 1 Corinthians 10:8) Today, some likewise fall for Satan's "machinations" and are lured into immorality or other ungodly practices. (Ephesians 6:11) True, such ones usually do not immediately lose their lives. But they do risk losing out on everlasting life, and in that way Satan causes their death.

Even though we recognize Satan's potential to cause harm, we need not fear him unduly. When Paul said that Satan had the means to cause death, he also said that Christ died in order that he "might bring [Satan] to nothing . . . and that he might emancipate all those who for fear of death were subject to slavery all through their lives." (Hebrews 2:14, 15) Yes, Jesus paid the ransom and thus freed believing mankind from slavery to sin and death.—2 Timothy 1:10.

Of course, it is sobering to think that Satan has the means to cause death, but we are confident that Jehovah can undo any harm caused by Satan and his agents. Jehovah assures us that the resurrected Jesus will "break up the works of the Devil." (1 John 3:8) In Jehovah's power, Jesus will resurrect the dead and thus nullify death itself. (John 5:28, 29) Eventually, Jesus will dramatically expose the limits of Satan's power by abyssing him. Satan is finally consigned to everlasting destruction.—Revelation 20:1-10.

# A Video to Touch the Hearts of Youths

MANY young people were encouraged to consider seriously their conduct when they saw the video *Young People Ask—How Can I Make Real Friends?*\* The video contains sound scriptural counsel, personal expressions by young Christians, and a moving contemporary drama based on the Bible account of Dinah. (Genesis, chapter 34) The following expressions about the video come from Mexico.

Martha relates: "The video deeply touched my heart. It seems as though it was made just for me. I thought that it was enough that my teachers and schoolmates *knew* that I was one of Jehovah's Witnesses. I failed to *prove* it by witnessing to them. I am grateful for all the information Jehovah provides, especially when it touches us as deeply as this video does."

Juan Carlos says: "This

\* Produced by Jehovah's Witnesses.

video really makes you think. As a young man, I've made some mistakes and could identify with some of the characters in the drama. Some years ago, I led a double life, but I realized that such a life can bring bad consequences. After watching the video, I am determined to be faithful to Jehovah."

Sulem confesses: "When I watched the video, I was overcome by emotion. Earlier, I had stopped reading the Bible, and I wasn't praying to Jehovah very much. When I listened to the comments made by the young people in the video, I was moved to start studying the Bible again and to pray to Jehovah."

Young people today face many challenges, and their choice of friends can often strongly influence how they live their lives. (Psalm 26:4; Proverbs 13:20) The video *Young People Ask—How Can I Make Real Friends?* is helping many to make good decisions in this regard.



**N**OPH and No are Biblical names for Egypt's once famous capitals of Memphis and Thebes. Noph (Memphis) was some 14 miles south of Cairo, on the west side of the Nile River. In time, however, Memphis lost its status as Egypt's capital. By the turn of the 15th century B.C.E., Egypt had a new capital, No (Thebes), located about 300 miles south of Memphis. Among the many temple ruins of Thebes is that of Karnak, considered to be the largest structure ever built with columns. Thebes and its Karnak temple were dedicated to the worship of Amon, the chief god of the Egyptians.

What did Bible prophecy foretell regarding Memphis and Thebes? Judgment was pronounced against Egypt's Pharaoh and its gods, especially the chief god, "Amon from No." (Jeremiah 46:25, 26)

The crowd of worshipers who flocked there would be "cut off." (Ezekiel 30:14, 15) And so it turned out. All that is left of Amon's worship are temple ruins. The

modern town of Luxor is situated on part of the site of ancient Thebes, and other small villages exist among its ruins.

As for Memphis, little remains except for its cemeteries. Bible scholar Louis Golding says: "For century upon century the Arab conquerors of Egypt used the titanic ruins of Memphis as a quarry for the building of their capital [Cairo] on the opposite side of the river. So well have the Nile and the Arab builders between them done their work that for miles upon miles within the circuit of the ancient city not a stone protrudes above the black soil." Truly, as foretold in the Bible, Memphis became "a mere object of astonishment . . . without an inhabitant."—Jeremiah 46:19.

These are just two of many examples demonstrating the accuracy of Bible prophecies. The devastation of Thebes

and Memphis gives us solid reason to have confidence in Bible prophecies as yet unfulfilled.—Psalm 37:10, 11, 29; Luke 23:43; Revelation 21:3-5.

## WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM?

