

JANUARY 1, 2002

THE WATCHTOWER

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM



Will
ALL MEN
Ever Be
EQUAL?



THE WATCHTOWER®

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

January 1, 2002

Average Printing Each Issue: 24,147,000

Vol. 123, No. 1

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.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 The Problems of Class Distinction
- 4 Is a Classless Society Really Possible?
- 8 All True Christians Are Evangelizers
- 13 The Blessings of the Good News
- 23 Jehovah Has Provided "Power Beyond What Is Normal"
- 29 Elders—Train Others to Carry the Load
- 32 Henry VIII and the Bible

WATCHTOWER STUDIES

FEBRUARY 4-10:

- All True Christians Are Evangelizers.
Page 8. Songs to be used: 32, 193.

FEBRUARY 11-17:

- The Blessings of the Good News.
Page 13. Songs to be used: 6, 151.

Publication of *The Watchtower* is part of a worldwide Bible educational work supported by voluntary donations.

The Bible translation used is the *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures—With References*, unless otherwise indicated.

The Watchtower (ISSN 0043-1087) is published semimonthly by Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.; M. H. Larson, President; G. F. Simonis, Secretary-Treasurer; 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483. Periodicals Postage Paid at Brooklyn, NY, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Watchtower, Wallkill, NY 12589.

Changes of address should reach us 30 days before your moving date. Give us your old and new address (if possible, your old address label).

© 2002 Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania.
All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A.
www.watchtower.org

Semimonthly

ENGLISH

Would you welcome more information or a free home Bible study? Please send your request to Jehovah's Witnesses, using the appropriate address below.

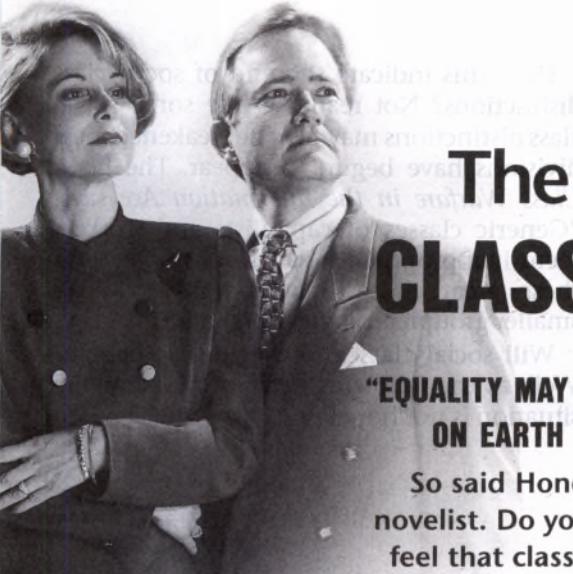
America, United States of: Wallkill, NY 12589. *Antigua:* Box 119, St. Johns. *Australia:* Box 280, Ingleburn, NSW 1890. *Bahamas:* Box N-1247, Nassau, N.P. *Barbados, W.I.:* Crusher Site Road, Prospect, St. James. *Britain:* The Ridgeway, London NW7 1RN. *Canada:* Box 4100, Halton Hills (Georgetown), Ontario L7G 4Y4. *Germany:* Niederselters, Am Steinfels, D-65618 Selters. *Ghana:* P. O. Box GP 760, Accra. *Guyana:* 50 Brickdam, Georgetown 16. *Hawaii 96819:* 2055 Kam IV Rd., Honolulu. *Hong Kong:* 4 Kent Road, Kowloon Tong. *India:* Post Bag 10, Lonavla, Pune Dis., Mah. 410 401. *Ireland:* Newcastle, Greystones, Co. Wicklow. *Jamaica:* P. O. Box 103, Old Harbour, St. Catherine. *Japan:* 1271 Nakashinden, Ebina City, Kanagawa Pref., 243-0496. *Kenya:* P.O. Box 47788, 00100 Nairobi GPO. *New Zealand:* P.O. Box 75-142, Manurewa. *Nigeria:* P.M.B. 1090, Benin City, Edo State. *Philippines, Republic of:* P. O. Box 2044, 1060 Manila. *South Africa:* Private Bag X2067, Krugersdorp, 1740. *Trinidad and Tobago, Republic of:* Lower Rapsey Street & Laxmi Lane, Curepe. *Zambia:* Box 33459, Lusaka 10101. *Zimbabwe:* Private Bag WG-5001, Westgate.

NOW PUBLISHED IN 144 LANGUAGES. SEMIMONTHLY LANGUAGES AVAILABLE BY MAIL: Afrikaans, Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Bengali, Bicol, Bislama, Bulgarian, Cebuano, * Chichewa, Chinese, Chinese (Simplified), * Cibemba, Croatian, * Czech, ** Danish, ** Dutch, ** East Armenian, Eifik, * English, ** (also Braille), Estonian, Ewe, Fijian, Finnish, ** French, ** Ga, Georgian, German, ** Greek, * Guarani, Gun, Hebrew, Hiligaynon, Hindi, Hiri Motu, Hungarian, * Igbo, * Iloko, * Indonesian, Italian, ** Japanese, ** (also Braille), Kannada, Kinyarwanda, Korean, ** (also Braille), Latvian, Lingala, Lithuanian, Macedonian, Malagasy, Malayalam, Maltese, Marathi, Myanmarese, Nepali, New Guinea Pidgin, Norwegian, ** Pangasinan, Papiamento (Curaçao), Papiamento (Aruba), Polish, ** Portuguese, ** (also Braille), Punjabi, Rarotongan, Romanian, * Russian, * Samar-Leyte, Samoan, Sango, Sepedi, Serbian, Sesotho, Shona, Silozi, Sinhala, Slovak, * Slovenian, Solomon Islands Pidgin, Spanish, ** Sranantongo, Swahili, * Swedish, ** Tagalog, * Tahitian, Tamil, Telugu, Thai, Tigrinya, Tongan, Tshiluba, Tsonga, Tswana, Turkish, Twi, Ukrainian, * Urdu, Venda, Vietnamese, Wallisian, Xhosa, Yoruba, * Zulu

MONTHLY LANGUAGES AVAILABLE BY MAIL: Armenian, Azerbaijani (Cyrillic script), Azerbaijani (Roman script), Cambodian, Chitongo, Gilbertese, Greenlandic, Hausa, Icelandic, Isoko, Kaonde, Kazakh, Kiluba, Kirghiz, Kirundi, Kwanyama/ Ndonga, Luganda, Luvale, Marshallese, Mauritanian Creole, Monokutuba, Moore, Niuean, Ossetian, Osetela, Palauan, Persian, Ponapean, Seychelles Creole, Tatar, Tiv, Trukese, Tumbuka, Tuvaluan, Umbundu, Yapepe, Zande

* Study articles also available in large-print edition.

** Audiocassettes also available.



The Problems of CLASS DISTINCTION

**"EQUALITY MAY PERHAPS BE A RIGHT, BUT NO POWER
ON EARTH CAN EVER TURN IT INTO A FACT."**

So said Honoré de Balzac, 19th-century French novelist. Do you agree with him? Many instinctively feel that class distinctions are wrong. Yet, even in this 21st century, human society is still divided into numerous social classes.

CALVIN COOLIDGE, president of the United States from 1923 to 1929, was concerned with the problem of social class distinctions and spoke of "the ultimate extinction of all privileged classes." Nevertheless, some 40 years after Coolidge's presidency, the Kerner Commission, appointed to study race relations, expressed fears that the United States would inevitably become two societies: "one black, one white—separate and unequal." Some claim that this prediction has already come true and that "the economic and racial divide is growing" in that country.

Why is it so difficult to turn the idea of human equality into a reality? A major factor is human nature. Former U.S. congressman William Randolph Hearst once said: "All men are created equal in one respect, at least, and that is their desire to be unequal." What did he mean? Perhaps 19th-century French dramatist Henry Becque said it more clearly: "What



makes equality such a difficult business is that we only want it with our superiors." In other words, people want to be equal with those above them on the social scale; but not many would be willing to limit their privileges and advantages by granting equality to those they consider to be below them.

In past times, people were born as commoners, as part of an aristocracy, or even as members of royalty. That is still true in a few places. However, in most lands today, it is money—or a lack of it—that determines whether someone is of the lower, middle, or upper class. Yet, there are other class indicators, such as race, education, and literacy. And in some places, gender is a major ground for discrimination, with women being viewed as an inferior class.

Glimmers of Hope?

Human rights legislation has helped to break down some class barriers. Antisegregation laws were passed in the United States. Apartheid was outlawed in South Africa. Slavery, although still existing, is illegal in much of the world. Legal decisions have forced recognition of the land rights of certain indigenous people, and antidiscrimination laws have provided relief for some disadvantaged classes.

Does this indicate the end of social class distinctions? Not really. While some social class distinctions may now be weakened, new divisions have begun to appear. The book *Class Warfare in the Information Age* says: "Generic classes of capitalists and workers seem inappropriate today, but only because these great classes have fragmented into smaller grouplets of angry people."

Will social classes forever divide people? Well, as the following article will show, the situation is not hopeless.

Is a CLASSLESS SOCIETY Really Possible?

JOHN ADAMS, who became the second president of the United States, was one of the signers of the historic Declaration of Independence, which included these noble words: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal." Still, John Adams evidently had his doubts that people are really equal, for he wrote: "Inequality of Mind and Body are so established by God Almighty in his Constitution of Human Nature that no art or policy can ever plane them down to a level." In contrast, British historian H. G. Wells was able to imagine an egalitarian society based on three things: a common but pure and undefiled world religion, universal education, and no armed forces.



So far, history has not produced the egalitarian society envisioned by Wells. Humans are far from equal, and class distinctions are still a predominant feature

of society. Have such classes brought any benefits to society as a whole? No. Social class systems divide people, resulting in envy, hatred, heartache, and much bloodshed. The one-time white-supremacy mentality in Africa, Australia, and North America brought misery to nonwhites—including the total genocide of the Aborigines in Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania). In Europe, classifying the Jews as inferior was a prelude to the Holocaust. The great wealth of the aristocracy and the dissatisfaction among the lower and middle classes were factors that led to the French Revolution of the 18th century and to the Bolshevik Revolution in 20th-century Russia.

A wise man of the past wrote: "Man has dominated man to his injury." (Ecclesiastes 8:9) His words are true whether those dominating are individuals or classes. When one group of people elevates itself over another, misery and suffering inevitably result.

Before God All Are Equal

Are some groups of humans inherently superior to other groups? Not in God's eyes. The Bible says: "[God] made out of one man every nation of men, to dwell upon the entire surface of the earth." (Acts 17:26) Moreover, the Creator "has not shown partiality to princes and has not given more consideration to the noble one than to the lowly one, for all of them are the work of his hands." (Job 34:19) All humans are related, and before God all are born equal.

Remember, too, that when a person dies, all pretensions that he is superior to others vanish. The ancient Egyptians did not believe that. When a Pharaoh died, they placed objects of great value in his tomb so that he could enjoy them as he continued to occupy his high position in an afterlife. Did he? No. Much of that wealth ended up in the hands of grave robbers, and many objects that escaped the robbers can today be seen in museums.

Since he was dead, the Pharaoh got no use at all out of those expensive objects. In death, there are no upper and no lower classes, no wealth and no poverty. The Bible states: "Wise men must die; stupid men, brutish men, all perish. For men are like oxen whose life cannot last, they are like cattle whose time is short." (Psalm 49:10, 12, *The New English Bible*) Whether we are kings or slaves, these inspired words hold true for all of us: "As for the dead, they are conscious of nothing at all, neither do they anymore have wages . . . There is no work nor devising nor knowledge nor wisdom in Sheol, the place to which you are going."—Ecclesiastes 9:5, 10.

The Creator "has not given more consideration to the noble one than to the lowly one, for all of them are the work of his hands."—Job 34:19.

We are all born equal in God's eyes, and we all end up equal in death. How futile, then, to promote one group of people over another during our short lifetime!

A Classless Society—How?

Still, is there any hope that some day there will be a society among the living where social class will not be important? Yes, there is. Almost 2,000 years ago when Jesus was on the earth, the groundwork was laid for such a society. Jesus gave his life as a ransom sacrifice for all believing mankind so that "everyone exercising faith in him might not be destroyed but have everlasting life."—John 3:16.

To show that none of his followers should elevate themselves above fellow believers, Jesus said: "You, do not you be called Rabbi, for one is your teacher, whereas all you are brothers. Moreover, do not call anyone your father on earth, for one is your Father, the heavenly One. Neither be called 'leaders,' for

your Leader is one, the Christ. But the greatest one among you must be your minister. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled.” (Matthew 23:8-12) In God’s eyes, all of Jesus’ true disciples are equal in the faith.

Did the early Christians view themselves as equal? Those who got the sense of Jesus’ teaching did. They viewed one another as equal in the faith and showed this by addressing one another as “brother.” (Philemon 1, 7, 20) Nobody was encouraged to view himself as being better than others. Consider, for example, the humble way in which Peter described himself in his second letter: “Simon Peter, a slave and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained a faith, held in equal privilege with ours.” (2 Peter 1:1) Peter had personally been instructed by Jesus, and as an apostle, he held an important position of responsibility. Yet, he considered himself to be a slave and recognized that other Christians held the faith in equal privilege with him.

Some may say that the ideal of equality is contradicted by the fact that in pre-Christian times God made Israel his special nation. (Exodus 19:5, 6) They may claim that this is an example of racial superiority, but that is not so. It is true that the Israelites, as descendants of Abraham, enjoyed a special relationship with God and were used as the channel for divine revelations. (Romans 3:1, 2) But the purpose of this was not to put them on a pedestal. Rather, it was in order that ‘all nations would be blessed.’—Genesis 22:18; Galatians 3:8.

It turned out that most Israelites did not imitate the faith of their forefather Abraham. They were unfaithful and rejected Jesus as the Messiah. Because of that, God rejected them. (Matthew 21:43) However, the meek among mankind did not lose out on the promised blessings. At Pentecost 33 C.E., the Christian congregation was born. This organization of Christians who were anointed by holy spirit was called “the Israel of God,” and

it proved to be the channel through which those blessings would come.—Galatians 6:16.

Some members of that congregation needed educating in the matter of equality. For example, the disciple James counseled those who were treating wealthy Christians with more honor than poorer ones. (James 2:1-4) That was wrong. The apostle Paul showed that Gentile Christians were in no way inferior to Jewish Christians, and female Christians were in no way inferior to males. He wrote: “You are all, in fact, sons of God through your faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor freeman, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one person in union with Christ Jesus.”—Galatians 3:26-28.

A Classless People Today

Jehovah’s Witnesses today try to live according to Scriptural principles. They recognize that social classes have no meaning in the eyes of God. Thus, they have no

Jehovah’s Witnesses show honor to their neighbors





It is spiritual qualities that count among true Christians

clergy/laity division, and they are not segregated according to skin color or wealth. Although some of them may be wealthy, they do not focus on "the showy display of one's means of life," for they realize that such things are only transitory. (1 John 2:15-17) Rather, all are united by their worship of the Universal Sovereign Jehovah God.

Every one of them accepts the responsibility to share in the work of preaching the good news of the Kingdom to his or her fellowman. Like Jesus, they honor the down-trodden and neglected by visiting them in their homes, offering to teach them God's Word. Those with a humble status in life work side by side with those who may be viewed by some as upper class. It is spiritual qualities that count, not social class. As in the first century, all are brothers and sisters in the faith.

Equality Allows for Variety

Of course, equality does not mean total uniformity. Men and women, old and young, are all represented in this Chris-

tian organization that includes people from many, many racial, linguistic, national, and economic backgrounds.

As individuals, they have different mental and physical abilities. But those differences do not make some superior or others inferior. Rather, such differences result in a delightful variety. Those Christians recognize that any talents they have are gifts from God and are no reason for feelings of superiority.

Class divisions are a result of man's trying to govern himself instead of following God's guidance. Soon, God's Kingdom will take over the day-to-day rulership of this earth, and the result will be an end to man-made class distinctions, along with all other things that have caused suffering through the ages. Then, in a real sense, 'the meek will inherit the earth.' (Psalm 37:11) All reasons for boasting about one's supposed superiority will be gone. Never again will social classes be allowed to divide the worldwide brotherhood of man.

ALL TRUE CHRISTIANS ARE EVANGELIZERS

"Sing to Jehovah, bless his name. From day to day tell the good news of salvation by him."—PSALM 96:2.

IN A world where disasters happen daily, it is truly comforting to know that as the Bible proclaims, war, crime, hunger, and oppression will soon end. (Psalm 46:9; 72:3, 7, 8, 12, 16) Indeed, is this not good news that everyone needs to hear? Jehovah's Witnesses think so. They are known everywhere as ones who preach "good news of something better." (Isaiah 52:7) True, many Witnesses have suffered persecution for their determination to tell the good news. But they have the best interests of people at heart. And what a record of zeal and perseverance the Witnesses have built up!

² The zeal of Jehovah's Witnesses today parallels that of the Christians of the first century. Of them, the Roman Catholic newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano* correctly said: "The first Christians, as soon as they were baptized, felt it their duty to spread the Gospel. From mouth to mouth, slaves transmitted the Gospel." Why are Jehovah's Witnesses, like those early Christians, so zealous? First, because the good news they publish is from Jehovah God himself. Could there be a better reason for zeal? Their preaching is a response to the words of the psalmist: "Sing to Jehovah, bless his name. From day to day tell the good news of salvation by him."—Psalm 96:2.

1. What good news do people need to hear, and how have Jehovah's Witnesses been exemplary in spreading such news?
2. What is one reason for the zeal of Jehovah's Witnesses?

³ The psalmist's words remind us of a second reason for the zeal of Jehovah's Witnesses. Their message is one of salvation. Some individuals work in medical, social, economic, or other fields to improve the lot of fellow humans, and such efforts are commendable. But anything one human can do for another is very limited in comparison with "salvation by [God]." Through Jesus Christ, Jehovah will save meek ones from sin, sickness, and death. Those who benefit will live forever! (John 3:16, 36; Revelation 21:3, 4) Today, salvation is among the "wonderful works" that Christians recount when they respond to the words: "Declare among the nations [God's] glory, among all the peoples his wonderful works. For Jehovah is great and very much to be praised. He is fear-inspiring above all other gods."—Psalm 96:3, 4.

The Master's Example

⁴ Jehovah's Witnesses are zealous for a third reason. They follow the example of Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:21) That perfect man wholeheartedly accepted the assignment "to tell good news to the meek ones." (Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:17-21) Thus, he became an evangelizer, a teller of good news. He traveled the length and breadth of Galilee and Judea,

3. (a) What is a second reason for the zeal of Jehovah's Witnesses? (b) What is involved in "salvation by [God]"?

4-6. (a) For what third reason are Jehovah's Witnesses zealous? (b) How did Jesus show zeal for the work of preaching the good news?



***Jesus was a zealous evangelizer
and trained others to do the same work***

"preaching the good news of the kingdom." (Matthew 4:23) And because he knew that many would respond to that good news, he said to his disciples: "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. Therefore, beg the Master of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest."—Matthew 9:37, 38.

⁵ In harmony with his own prayer, Jesus trained others to be evangelizers. In time, he sent his apostles out on their own and told them: "As you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of the heavens has drawn near!'" Would it have been more practical for them to set up programs to alleviate the social ills of the day? Or should they have become involved in politics to fight the rampant corruption of the time? No. Rather, Jesus set the standard for all Christian evangelizers when he told his followers: "As you go, preach."—Matthew 10:5-7.

⁶ Later, Jesus sent out another group of disciples to announce: "The kingdom of God has come near." When they returned to report the success of their evangelizing tour, Jesus was overjoyed. He prayed: "I publicly praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,

because you have carefully hidden these things from wise and intellectual ones, and have revealed them to babes." (Luke 10:1, 8, 9, 21) Jesus' disciples, formerly hardworking fishermen, farmers, and so forth, were like babes when compared with the highly educated religious leaders of the nation. But the disciples were trained to proclaim the best of all good news.

⁷ After Jesus' ascension to heaven, his followers continued to spread the good news of salvation. (Acts 2:21, 38-40) To whom did they preach first? Did they go to the nations who did not know God? No, their initial field was Israel, a people acquainted with Jehovah for more than 1,500 years. Did they have the right to preach in a land where Jehovah was already worshiped? Yes. Jesus had told them: "You will be witnesses of me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the most distant part of the earth." (Acts 1:8) Israel needed to hear the good news as much as any other nation.

7. After Jesus' ascension to heaven, to whom did his followers first preach the good news?

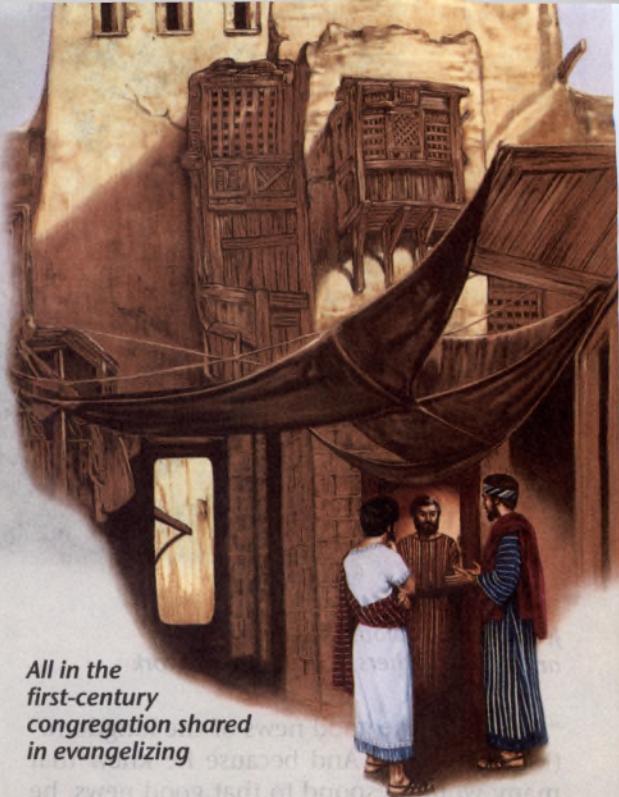
⁸ In a similar way, Jehovah's Witnesses today preach in all the earth. They cooperate with the angel seen by John who "had everlasting good news to declare as glad tidings to those who dwell on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people." (Revelation 14:6) In the year 2001, they were active in 235 lands and territories, including some commonly viewed as Christian. Is it wrong of Jehovah's Witnesses to preach in places where Christendom has already established its churches? Some say it is and may even consider such evangelizing to be "sheep stealing." However, Jehovah's Witnesses remember Jesus' feelings for the humble Jews of his day. Although they already had a priesthood, Jesus did not hesitate to tell them the good news. He "felt pity for them, because they were skinned and thrown about like sheep without a shepherd." (Matthew 9:36) When Jehovah's Witnesses find humble people who do not know about Jehovah and his Kingdom, should they withhold the good news from such individuals because some religion claims authority over them? Following the example of Jesus' apostles, we answer no. The good news must be preached "in all the nations," without exception.—Mark 13:10.

All Early Christians Evangelized

⁹ Who in the first century shared in the preaching work? The facts show that all Christians were evangelizers. Author W. S. Williams notes: "The general testimony is that all Christians in the primitive Church . . . preached the gospel." Regarding events on the day of Pentecost 33 C.E., the Bible says: "They all [men and women] became filled with holy spirit and started to speak with different tongues, just as the spirit was granting them to make utterance." Evan-

8. How do Jehovah's Witnesses today imitate first-century followers of Jesus?

9. In the first century, who in the Christian congregation shared in the preaching work?



*All in the
first-century
congregation shared
in evangelizing*

gelizers came to include men and women, young and old, slave and freeman. (Acts 1:14; 2:1, 4, 17, 18; Joel 2:28, 29; Galatians 3:28) When persecution forced many Christians to flee from Jerusalem, "those who had been scattered went through the land declaring the good news of the word." (Acts 8:4) All "those who had been scattered," not just a few appointed ones, evangelized.

¹⁰ This proved to be true throughout those early years. Jesus prophesied: "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." (Matthew 24:14) In the first-century fulfillment of those words, the good news was widely preached before Roman armies destroyed the Jewish religious and political system. (Colossians 1:23) Further, all of Jesus' followers obeyed his command: "Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations,

10. What two-fold commission was fulfilled before the destruction of the Jewish system?

baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit, teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19, 20) The early Christians did not urge meek ones to believe in Jesus and then leave them to find their own way, as some modern preachers do. Rather, they taught them to become disciples of Jesus, organized them into congregations, and trained them so that they in turn could preach the good news and make disciples. (Acts 14:21-23) Jehovah's Witnesses today follow that pattern.

¹¹ A number of Jehovah's Witnesses, following the first-century examples of Paul, Barnabas, and others, have gone as missionaries to foreign lands. Their work has been truly beneficial, since they have not become involved in politics or in other ways strayed from the commission to preach the good news. They have simply obeyed the command of Jesus: "As you go, preach." However, most of Jehovah's Witnesses are not missionaries in foreign lands. Many of them earn their living doing secular work, and others are still in school. Some are raising children. But all Witnesses share with others the good news that they have learned. Young and old, male and female, they joyfully respond to the Bible's exhortation: "Preach the word, be at it urgently in favorable season, in troublesome season." (2 Timothy 4:2) Like their first-century forerunners, they continue "without letup teaching and declaring the good news about the Christ, Jesus." (Acts 5:42) They are announcing the best of good news for humanity.

Proselytize or Evangelize?

¹² The Greek language has the word *pro-*

11. Who today share in announcing the best of good news to mankind?

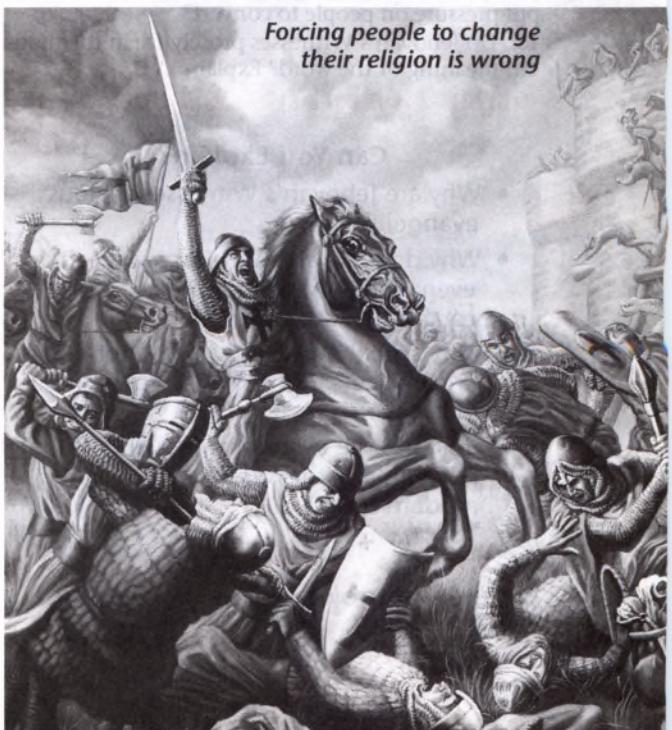
12. What is proselytism, and how has it come to be viewed?

se'ly-tos, which means a "convert." From this has come the English word "proselytism," which basically means "the act of making converts." Nowadays, some say that proselytism is harmful. A document published by the World Council of Churches even speaks of "the sin of proselytism." Why? The *Catholic World Report* states: "Under the steady hammering of Orthodox complaints, 'proselytism' has taken on the connotation of *forcible* conversion."

¹³ Is proselytism harmful? It can be. Jesus said that the proselytism of the scribes and Pharisees was harmful to the converts they made. (Matthew 23:15) Certainly, "forcible conversion" is wrong. According to the historian Josephus, for example, when the Maccabean John Hyrcanus subdued the Idumaeans, he "permitted them to remain in their country so long as they had themselves circumcised and were willing to observe the laws of the Jews." If the Idumaeans were to live under Jewish rulership, they would have to practice the Jewish religion. Historians tell

13. What are some examples of harmful proselytism?

Forcing people to change their religion is wrong



us that in the eighth century C.E., Charlemagne conquered the pagan Saxons of northern Europe and brutally forced them to convert.* How sincere, though, were the conversions of the Saxons or the Idumaeans? For instance, how genuine was the attachment of Idumaeian King Herod—who tried to have the infant Jesus killed—to the divinely inspired Law of Moses?—Matthew 2:1-18.

¹⁴ Are conversions forced today? In a sense, some are. Certain missionaries of Christendom reportedly offer overseas scholarships to potential converts. Or they may make a starving refugee sit through a sermon in order to obtain a ration of food. According to a statement issued in 1992 by a convention of Orthodox Primates, “proselytism sometimes occurs through material enticement and sometimes by various forms of violence.”

¹⁵ Pressuring people to change their religion is wrong. Certainly, Jehovah’s Witness-

* According to *The Catholic Encyclopedia*, during the Reformation the forcible imposition of a religion on a people was expressed by the motto: *Cuius regio, illius et religio* (In essence, this means: “Whoever rules the land also decides its religion.”)

14. How do some of Christendom’s missionaries put pressure on people to convert?

15. Do Jehovah’s Witnesses proselytize in the modern meaning of the word? Explain.

Can You Explain?

- Why are Jehovah’s Witnesses zealous evangelizers?
- Why do Jehovah’s Witnesses preach even where Christendom has established churches?
- Why are Jehovah’s Witnesses not proselytizers in the modern meaning of the word?
- How has the evangelizing work of Jehovah’s Witnesses grown in modern times?

es do not act in such a way.* Hence, they do not proselytize in the modern meaning of the word. Rather, like the first-century Christians, they preach the good news to everyone. Any who respond voluntarily are invited to take in more knowledge by means of a Bible study. Such interested ones learn to put faith, solidly based on accurate Bible knowledge, in God and his purposes. As a result, they call on God’s name, Jehovah, for salvation. (Romans 10:13, 14, 17) Whether they will accept the good news or not is a matter of personal choice. There is no compulsion. If there were, conversion would be meaningless. To be acceptable to God, worship must come from the heart.—Deuteronomy 6:4, 5; 10:12.

Evangelizing in Modern Times

¹⁶ Throughout modern times, Jehovah’s Witnesses have preached the good news of the Kingdom in a greater fulfillment of Matthew 24:14. A prominent instrument in their evangelizing work has been the *Watchtower* magazine.[#] In 1879, when the first issues of *The Watchtower* were published, the magazine had a circulation of about 6,000 in one language. In the year 2001, over 122 years later, the circulation had reached 23,042,000 copies in 141 languages. Paralleling that increase has been the growth in the evangelizing activity of Jehovah’s Witnesses. Compare the few thousand hours spent each year in the evangelizing work in the 19th century with the 1,169,082,225 hours devoted to the

* At a meeting of the United States International Religious Freedom Commission on November 16, 2000, a participant made a distinction between those who try to force conversions and the activity of Jehovah’s Witnesses. It was noted that when Jehovah’s Witnesses preach to others, they do so in such a way that a person can simply say “I am not interested” and close the door.

[#] The complete title of the magazine is *The Watchtower Announcing Jehovah’s Kingdom*.

16. How has the evangelizing work of Jehovah’s Witnesses increased in modern times?

preaching work in the year 2001. Consider the 4,921,702 free Bible studies that were conducted on average each month. What an enormous amount of fine work was accomplished! And it was done by 6,117,666 active Kingdom preachers.

¹⁷ The psalmist says: "All the gods of the peoples are valueless gods; but as for Jehovah, he has made the very heavens." (Psalm 96:5) In the secularized world of today, nationalism, national emblems, prominent individuals, material things, and even wealth itself have been made objects of worship. (Matthew 6:24; Ephesians 5:5; Colos-

17. (a) What kind of false gods are worshiped today? (b) Whatever his language, nationality, or social status, what does everyone need to know?

sians 3:5) Mohandas K. Gandhi once said: "It is my firm opinion that . . . Europe is today only nominally Christian. It is really worshipping Mammon [riches]." The fact is, the good news needs to be heard everywhere. Everyone, whatever his language, nationality, or social status, needs to know about Jehovah and his purposes. We wish that all would respond to the words of the psalmist: "Ascribe to Jehovah glory and strength. Ascribe to Jehovah the glory belonging to his name!" (Psalm 96:7, 8) Jehovah's Witnesses help others to learn about Jehovah so that they can properly ascribe glory to him. And responsive ones are greatly benefited. What benefits do they enjoy? These will be discussed in the following article.

THE BLESSINGS OF THE GOOD NEWS

"Jehovah has anointed me to tell good news to the meek ones. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, . . . to comfort all the mourning ones."—ISAIAH 61:1, 2.

ONE Sabbath day early in his ministry, Jesus was in the synagogue in Nazareth. According to the record, "the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed him, and he opened the scroll and found the place where it was written: 'Jehovah's spirit is upon me, because he anointed me to declare good news!'" Jesus went on to read more of the prophetic passage. Then he sat down and said: "Today this scripture that you just heard is fulfilled."—Luke 4:16-21.

² In this way, Jesus identified himself as

1, 2. (a) What did Jesus reveal himself to be, and how? (b) What blessings did the good news announced by Jesus bring?

the prophesied evangelizer, the teller of good news and bearer of comfort. (Matthew 4:23) And what good news Jesus had to tell! He informed his hearers: "I am the light of the world. He that follows me will by no means walk in darkness, but will possess the light of life." (John 8:12) He also said: "If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31, 32) Yes, Jesus had "sayings of everlasting life." (John 6:68, 69) Light, life, freedom—surely these are blessings to be treasured!

³ After Pentecost 33 C.E., the disciples
3. What good news did Jesus' disciples preach?

continued Jesus' work of evangelizing. They preached the "good news of the kingdom" both to Israelites and to people of the nations. (Matthew 24:14; Acts 15:7; Romans 1:16) Those who responded came to know Jehovah God. They were liberated from religious enslavement and became part of the new spiritual nation, "the Israel of God," whose members have the prospect of ruling forever in heaven with their Lord, Jesus Christ. (Galatians 5:1; 6:16; Ephesians 3:5-7; Colossians 1:4, 5; Revelation 22:5) Those were rich blessings indeed!

Evangelism Today

⁴ Today, anointed Christians, supported by a growing "great crowd" of "other sheep," continue to fulfill the prophetic commission originally given to Jesus. (Revelation 7:9; John 10:16) As a result, the good news is being preached on a scale never before seen. In 235 lands and territories, Jehovah's Witnesses have gone out "to tell good news to the meek ones . . . , to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to those taken captive and the wide opening of the eyes even to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of goodwill on the part of Jehovah and the day of vengeance on the part of our God; to comfort all the mourning ones." (Isaiah 61:1, 2) Hence, the Christian evangelizing work continues to bring blessings to many and genuine comfort to "those in any sort of tribulation."—2 Corinthians 1:3, 4.

⁵ It is true that the churches of Christendom sponsor forms of evangelism. Many send out missionaries to make proselytes in other lands. For example, *The Orthodox Christian Mission Center Magazine* reports on the activity of Orthodox missionaries in

4. In what way is the commission to preach the good news being fulfilled today?
5. Regarding the preaching of the good news, how are Jehovah's Witnesses different from the churches of Christendom?

Madagascar, southern Africa, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. However, in the Orthodox Church, as in the other churches of Christendom, the vast majority of the members have no share in such work. In contrast, all dedicated Witnesses of Jehovah endeavor to share in evangelizing. They realize that proclaiming the good news is an evidence of the genuineness of their faith. Paul said: "With the heart one exercises faith for righteousness, but with the mouth one makes public declaration for salvation." Faith that does not move one to action is, in effect, dead.—Romans 10:10; James 2:17.

Good News That Brings Eternal Blessings

⁶ Jehovah's Witnesses preach the best news possible. They open their Bibles and show receptive ones that Jesus sacrificed his life to give mankind a way of approach to God, forgiveness of sins, and the hope of everlasting life. (John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 5:18, 19) They announce that God's Kingdom has been established in heaven under the anointed King, Jesus Christ, and that soon it will remove wickedness from the earth and oversee the restoration of Paradise. (Revelation 11:15; 21:3, 4) In fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, they inform their neighbors that now is "the year of goodwill on the part of Jehovah" when mankind can still respond to the good news. They also warn that soon will come "the day of vengeance on the part of our God" when Jehovah will bring an end to unrepentant wrongdoers.—Psalm 37:9-11.

⁷ In a world beset by tragedy and disaster, this is the only good news with eternal benefits. Those who accept it become part of a united, worldwide brotherhood of Christians who do not allow national, tribal, or economic differences to divide them. They have

6. What good news is being preached today?
7. What experience demonstrates the unity of Jehovah's Witnesses, and why do they enjoy such unity?

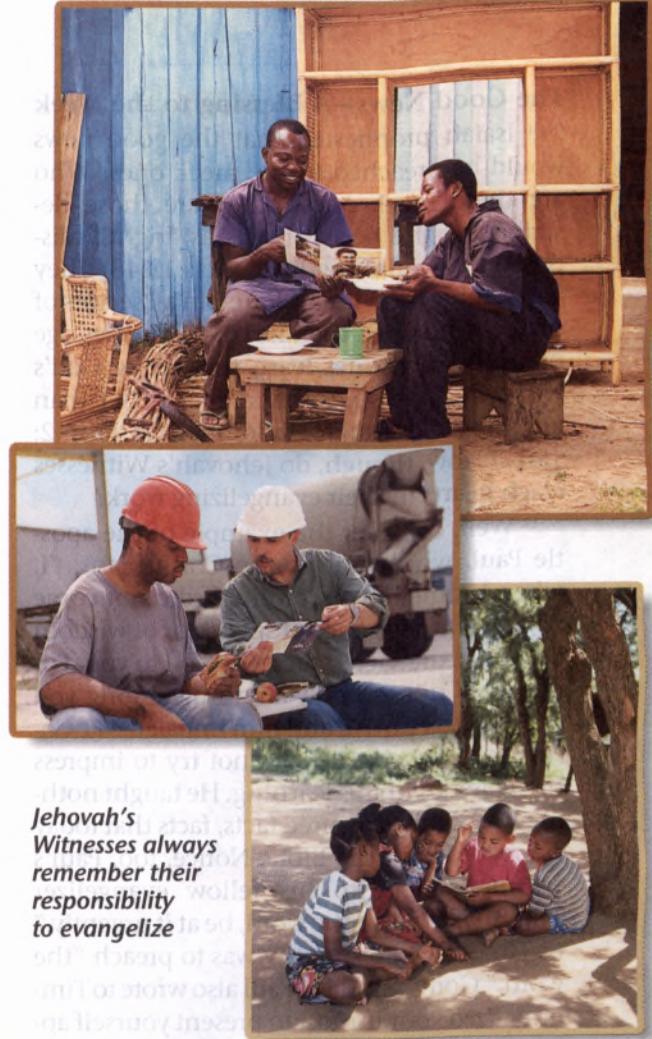
'clothed themselves with love, for it is a perfect bond of union.' (Colossians 3:14; John 15:12) This was seen last year in a certain African country. One morning the capital city was awakened by gunfire. An attempted coup d'état was in progress. When events took an ethnic turn, a Witness family was criticized for sheltering fellow Witnesses of a different ethnic group. The family replied: "We have only Jehovah's Witnesses staying in our house." To them, ethnic differences were not important; Christian love—giving comfort to those in need—was. A non-Witness relative commented: "Members of all religions betrayed their fellow worshipers. Only Jehovah's Witnesses did not." Many similar incidents reported from lands torn apart by civil conflict show that Jehovah's Witnesses truly "have love for the whole association of brothers."—1 Peter 2:17.

The Good News Changes People

⁸ The good news has to do with what Paul called "the life now and that which is to come." (1 Timothy 4:8) It not only offers a wonderful, sure hope for the future but also brings improvements to "the life now." As individuals, Jehovah's Witnesses are guided by God's Word, the Bible, to bring their lives into harmony with God's will. (Psalm 119:101) Their very personalities are made new as they cultivate such qualities as righteousness and loyalty.—Ephesians 4:24.

⁹ Consider the example of Franco. He had a problem with anger. Whenever things went wrong, he flew into a violent rage and broke things. His wife studied the Bible with Jehovah's Witnesses, and their Christian example gradually helped Franco to see that he had to change. He studied the Bible with them and was finally able to manifest the holy spirit's fruits of peace and self-control. (Galatians 5:

8, 9. (a) What changes do those who accept the good news make? (b) What experiences illustrate the power of the good news?



*Jehovah's
Witnesses always
remember their
responsibility
to evangelize*

22, 23) He was one of the 492 baptized in Belgium during the 2001 service year. Consider, too, Alejandro. That young man became so addicted to drugs that he sank to the point of living on a garbage dump, salvaging what he could to sell in order to support his drug habit. When he was 22 years old, Jehovah's Witnesses invited Alejandro to study the Bible, and he agreed. He read the Bible every day and attended Christian meetings. He cleaned up his life so quickly that in less than six months, he was able to share in the evangelizing work—one of the 10,115 to do so last year in Panama.

The Good News—A Blessing to the Meek

¹⁰ Isaiah prophesied that the good news would be preached to the meek ones. Who are these meek ones? They are those described in the book of Acts as “rightly disposed for everlasting life.” (Acts 13:48) They are humble individuals found in all sectors of society who open their hearts to the message of truth. Such ones learn that doing God’s will brings blessings that are far richer than anything the secular world offers. (1 John 2:15-17) How, though, do Jehovah’s Witnesses reach hearts in their evangelizing work?

¹¹ Well, consider the example of the apostle Paul, who wrote to the Corinthians: “I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come with an extravagance of speech or of wisdom declaring the sacred secret of God to you. For I decided not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ, and him impaled.” (1 Corinthians 2:1, 2) Paul did not try to impress his hearers with his learning. He taught nothing but divinely assured facts, facts that today are recorded in the Bible. Notice, too, Paul’s encouragement to his fellow evangelizer Timothy: “Preach the word, be at it urgently.” (2 Timothy 4:2) Timothy was to preach “the word,” God’s message. Paul also wrote to Timothy: “Do your utmost to present yourself approved to God, a workman with nothing to be ashamed of, handling the word of the truth aright.”—2 Timothy 2:15.

¹² Jehovah’s Witnesses heed Paul’s example, as well as his words to Timothy. They recognize the power of God’s Word and make good use of it as they seek to show their neighbors appropriate words of hope and comfort. (Psalm 119:52; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17;

10. Who respond to the good news, and how does their outlook change?
11. According to Paul, how should the good news be preached?
12. How do Jehovah’s Witnesses today heed Paul’s words and example?

Hebrews 4:12) True, they make good use of Bible literature so that interested ones can gain more Bible knowledge at their leisure. But they always seek to show people words of Scripture. They know that God’s inspired Word will move the hearts of humble ones. And using it in this way strengthens their own faith too.

“Comfort All the Mourning Ones”

¹³ The year 2001 had its share of disasters, and as a result, many individuals were in need of comfort. Last September saw an outstanding example in the United States, with the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon near Washington, D.C. What a shock those attacks were for the whole country! In the face of such events, Jehovah’s Witnesses strive to fulfill their commission to offer ‘comfort to all the mourning ones.’ A few experiences will illustrate how they do this.

¹⁴ A Witness who is a full-time evangelizer approached a lady on the sidewalk and asked what she thought about the recent terrorist attacks. The lady began to weep. She said that she felt bad and wished she could somehow help. The Witness told her that God is very much interested in us all, and she read Isaiah 61:1, 2. These divinely inspired words made sense to the lady, who said that everyone was in mourning. She accepted a tract and asked the Witness to visit her in her home.

¹⁵ Two Witnesses who were engaged in the work of evangelizing met a man working in his shed. They offered to show him words of comfort from the Scriptures in view of the recent tragedy at the World Trade Center. With his consent they read 2 Corinthians 1:3-7,

13. In the year 2001, what events gave rise to a widespread need for giving comfort to mourning ones?

- 14, 15. How were Witnesses on two different occasions able to use scriptures effectively to comfort mourning ones?

which includes the words: "Comfort . . . abounds through the Christ." The man appreciated that his Witness neighbors were sharing something comforting with others and said: "May God bless the wonderful work that you are doing."

¹⁶ A Witness calling back on interested people met the son of a woman who had previously shown interest and explained that he was concerned about how the neighbors were doing after the recent tragedy. The man was amazed that the Witness had taken his own time to visit people and check on them. He said that he was working quite close to the World Trade Center when the attack occurred and saw the entire event unfold. When he asked why God permits suffering, the Witness read verses from the Bible, including Psalm 37:39, which says: "The salvation of the righteous ones is from Jehovah; he is their fortress in the time of distress." The man kindly asked how the Witness and his family were doing, invited him to return, and expressed heartfelt appreciation for the visit.

¹⁷ Another of the thousands of mourning ones comforted by Jehovah's Witnesses in the days following the terrorist attacks was a lady whom the Witnesses met while they were visiting their neighbors. She was extremely upset by what had happened and listened as they read Psalm 72:12-14: "He will deliver the poor one crying for help, also the afflicted one and whoever has no helper. He will feel sorry for the lowly one and the poor one, and the souls of the poor ones he will

16, 17. What two experiences demonstrate the power of the Bible to help individuals who are saddened or disturbed by tragedies?



Those who respond to the good news become part of a united, worldwide brotherhood

save. From oppression and from violence he will redeem their soul, and their blood will be precious in his eyes." How meaningful those words were! The lady asked the Witnesses to read the verses again and invited them into her house to continue the discussion. By the end of the conversation, a Bible study was under way.

¹⁸ One Witness works in a restaurant in a rather affluent community where people

18. How did a Witness help his neighbors when he was invited to pray in their behalf?

have not previously shown much interest in the good news of the Kingdom. After the terrorist attacks, the community appeared shaken. On the Friday evening after the attack, the manager of the restaurant invited everyone to go outside and hold candles, observing a moment of quiet reflection in memory of the victims. Respectful of their feelings, the Witness went out and stood silently on the sidewalk. The manager knew that he was a minister of Jehovah's Witnesses, so after the period of reflection, she asked him to represent everyone in prayer. The Witness consented. In his prayer, he mentioned the widespread mourning but said that the mourners need not grieve without hope. He spoke of the time when such terrible events would no longer happen and said that all could draw closer to the God of comfort through accurate knowledge from the Bible. After saying "Amen," the manager—followed by the more than 60 people who were outside the restaurant—came up to the Witness, thanked him, and hugged him, remarking that the prayer was the best she had ever heard.

A Blessing to the Community

¹⁹ In these days especially, communities where Jehovah's Witnesses are active benefit from their presence—as many have remarked. How could a people who promote peace, honesty, and clean morals not be a force for good? In one Central Asian country, Witnesses met a retired officer of the former state security agency. He said that he was once assigned to investigate various religious organizations. When he looked into Jehovah's Witnesses, he was impressed by their honesty and good conduct. He admired their firm faith and the fact that their teachings are based on the Scriptures. This man agreed to a Bible study.

19. What experience demonstrates that some recognize the high standards of Jehovah's Witnesses?

²⁰ From the few experiences related in this article, out of the thousands that could be related, it is clear that Jehovah's Witnesses were very busy during the 2001 service year.* They spoke with millions of people, they comforted many who mourned, and their evangelizing work was blessed. There were 263,431 who symbolized their dedication to God by getting baptized. Worldwide, the number of evangelizers increased by 1.7 percent. And the fact that 15,374,986 attended the annual Memorial of Jesus' death indicates that there is much more work to do. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26) May we continue to seek out meek ones who respond to the good news. And as long as Jehovah's year of goodwill continues, may we continue to comfort "the broken-hearted." What a blessed privilege we have! Surely all of us echo Isaiah's words: "Without fail I shall exult in Jehovah. My soul will be joyful in my God." (Isaiah 61:10) May God continue to use us as he fulfills these prophetic words: "The Sovereign Lord Jehovah will cause the sprouting of righteousness and of praise in front of all the nations."—Isaiah 61:11.

* The chart on pages 19 to 22 gives the report of the activity of Jehovah's Witnesses during the 2001 service year.

20. (a) What does the activity reported by Jehovah's Witnesses last year show? (b) What indicates that there is much more work to do, and how do we view our privilege of evangelizing?

Do You Remember?

- How were the meek ones blessed by the good news that Jesus preached?
- What blessings came to those who responded to the evangelizing work of Jesus' first-century disciples?
- How have receptive ones today been blessed by the good news?
- How do we view our privilege of being evangelizers?

2001 SERVICE YEAR REPORT OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES WORLDWIDE

Country or Territory	Population	2001 Peak Pubs.	Ratio, One Publisher to:	2001 Av. Pubs.	% Inc. Over 2000	2000 Av. Pubs.	2001 No. Bptzd.	Av. Pio. Pubs.	No. of Congs.	Total Hours	Av. Bible Studies	Memorial Attendance
Alaska	655,000	2,276	288	2,119	7	1,983	51	231	26	354,242	787	4,612
Albania	3,262,000	2,392	1,364	2,285	16	1,969	340	709	54	928,839	4,414	10,683
American Samoa	62,900	171	368	158	-7*	170	3	17	2	31,335	154	686
Andorra	65,844	162	406	134	-3*	138	3	15	2	24,073	50	266
Angola	12,300,000	46,424	265	44,317	8	41,222	4,181	5,728	699	10,535,853	96,592	182,709
Anguilla	10,000	38	263	33	-20*	41	6	1	9,109	35	160	
Antigua	65,952	377	175	361	6	340	9	43	6	74,909	375	1,090
Argentina	37,000,000	123,619	299	120,777	2	118,659	5,222	14,765	1,726	23,277,889	78,552	267,759
Armenia	3,344,336	7,001	478	6,572	13	5,834	961	1,203	48	1,795,071	6,417	18,010
Aruba	91,065	635	143	622	0	620	41	37	8	91,065	496	2,246
Australia	19,277,104	59,963	321	58,993	-1*	59,392	1,727	5,020	768	9,514,957	18,942	111,924
Austria	8,065,166	20,331	397	20,088	0	20,167	380	1,618	300	3,316,609	7,961	33,566
Azerbaijan	7,748,163	314	24,676	259	36	190	24	46	1	72,627	355	849
Azores	242,073	536	452	525	2	516	20	69	15	111,282	399	1,380
Bahamas	255,055	1,446	176	1,384	3	1,344	30	193	26	293,984	1,299	3,940
Bangladesh	129,155,000	105	1,230,048	87	0	87	2	14	2	18,089	95	229
Barbados	260,490	2,372	110	2,309	1	2,297	77	208	26	353,536	1,433	5,994
Belarus	9,990,000	3,004	3,326	2,902	9	2,651	140	447	33	692,324	2,492	7,550
Belau	19,181	91	211	87	13	77	7	23	1	23,107	145	377
Belgium	10,263,414	25,025	410	24,383	-2*	24,809	492	1,741	379	3,676,694	7,132	45,498
Belize	270,000	1,263	214	1,144	1	1,134	61	156	28	244,224	1,136	5,294
Benin	5,532,000	6,675	829	6,340	5	6,028	399	960	132	1,541,375	10,123	26,704
Bermuda	63,503	444	143	409	7	383	15	68	5	91,710	245	1,041
Bolivia	8,330,800	17,050	489	15,965	3	15,490	1,048	3,056	220	4,361,893	22,059	57,385
Bonaire	13,245	59	224	53	-9*	58	3	3	1	8,536	61	164
Bosnia & Herzegovina	4,354,911	1,085	4,014	1,060	5	1,008	73	274	13	372,276	738	2,487
Botswana	1,693,970	1,174	1,443	1,108	4	1,068	85	107	32	217,809	1,520	3,882
Brazil	172,816,200	555,145	311	523,998	3	506,888	33,555	53,306	8,592	91,990,579	543,957	1,442,641
Britain	61,048,120	124,828	489	119,655	-1*	120,592	2,407	10,459	1,468	17,900,817	37,645	213,595
Bulgaria	8,329,000	1,210	6,883	1,153	8	1,066	81	170	17	289,727	1,074	3,128
Burkina Faso	10,352,000	1,021	10,139	963	2	945	57	147	24	276,643	1,524	3,279
Burundi	6,847,000	3,896	1,757	3,591	18	3,034	468	619	54	1,105,788	8,831	14,096
Cambodia	11,168,000	103	108,427	82	44	57	17	41	2	51,722	284	429
Cameroon	15,292,000	28,587	535	27,637	4	26,508	1,350	2,393	659	4,971,370	33,675	86,621
Canada	30,919,839	110,818	279	107,218	0	107,742	2,030	10,922	1,343	18,544,473	32,672	184,846
Cape Verde	427,704	1,496	286	1,463	3	1,416	143	245	26	361,478	2,891	5,974
Cayman Islands	32,000	169	189	142	11	128	1	12	2	23,822	114	461
Central Afr. Rep.	3,512,000	2,389	1,470	2,309	2	2,274	162	427	56	618,257	4,078	14,392
Chad	8,400,000	598	14,047	570	2	561	43	117	17	184,891	1,005	4,526
Chile	15,401,952	63,301	243	58,227	2	56,952	2,793	8,826	709	12,376,473	48,743	156,145
Chuuk	73,221	67	1,093	59	9	54	2	28	3	31,968	214	756
Colombia	43,070,704	111,477	386	104,850	3	101,390	6,911	14,980	1,621	22,663,269	153,328	391,634
Comoros	630,000	15	42,000	12	33	9	1	1	1	1,850	12	52
Congo, Dem. Rep. of	51,000,000	120,209	424	106,894	3	103,877	7,040	13,202	2,851	22,975,453	201,377	592,292
Congo, Rep. of	3,000,000	4,302	697	3,795	9	3,477	295	631	107	1,080,696	13,830	20,258
Cook Islands	14,600	158	92	137	-2*	140	5	16	2	26,831	125	364
Costa Rica	3,810,179	19,476	196	18,727	-1*	18,880	504	1,433	244	2,703,212	13,756	48,968
Côte d'Ivoire	16,938,728	6,372	2,658	6,204	3	6,011	367	978	157	1,660,603	12,522	24,645
Croatia	4,381,352	5,428	807	5,349	1	5,283	157	703	68	1,195,048	2,305	10,152

Country or Territory	Population	2001 Peak Pubs.	Ratio, One Publisher to:	2001 Av. Pubs.	% Inc. Over 2000	2000 Av. Pubs.	2001 No. Bptzd.	Av. Pio. Pubs.	No. of Congs.	Total Hours	Av. Bible Studies	Memorial Attendance
Cuba	11,217,100	87,230	129	86,185	0	85,872	3,555	12,110	1,294	16,297,115	133,766	184,620
Curaçao	136,888	1,377	99	1,354	-3*	1,398	37	114	20	221,024	1,252	3,674
Cyprus	671,300	1,834	366	1,816	1	1,797	57	225	23	338,872	867	3,485
Czech Republic	10,292,933	15,822	651	15,558	-1*	15,757	326	1,094	236	2,252,776	5,658	30,283
Denmark	5,330,020	14,672	363	14,421	-1*	14,522	215	1,239	213	2,181,450	3,703	22,571
Dominica	71,794	352	204	335	2	329	6	47	8	76,263	392	1,123
Dominican Rep.	8,740,000	23,806	367	23,082	3	22,369	1,243	4,326	356	5,878,997	38,386	89,681
Ecuador	12,879,499	44,604	289	42,051	4	40,328	2,999	7,144	579	10,054,752	60,850	165,600
El Salvador	6,396,890	28,775	222	27,507	2	26,982	1,432	2,452	499	4,924,394	25,888	80,363
Equatorial Guinea	487,344	849	574	719	9	662	72	152	14	207,460	2,028	3,779
Estonia	1,366,723	3,900	350	3,764	3	3,669	205	492	47	744,251	2,653	8,209
Ethiopia	63,500,000	6,330	10,032	6,156	4	5,936	398	1,069	107	1,657,249	4,154	17,728
Faeroe Islands	45,409	83	547	74	10	67		26	4	22,242	38	122
Falkland Islands	2,220	5	444	5	-17*	6		1	1	718	3	13
Fiji	806,217	2,076	388	1,930	2	1,886	75	238	32	383,731	1,791	7,308
Finland	5,181,115	20,170	257	19,467	1	19,366	354	1,762	303	2,719,040	6,971	27,843
France	59,453,000	113,994	522	110,423	-2*	112,149	2,393	7,492	1,520	16,221,684	28,375	200,621
French Guiana	157,274	1,513	104	1,475	1	1,462	53	183	24	329,636	2,350	5,918
Gabon	1,200,000	2,320	517	2,116	2	2,069	211	279	46	507,895	5,508	8,850
Gambia, The	1,309,000	155	8,445	140	2	137	12	39	3	56,239	291	491
Georgia	5,018,502	14,874	337	14,228	1	14,048	292	2,120	136	2,757,684	5,903	30,226
Germany	82,234,128	164,441	500	161,440	-1*	162,932	3,177	10,796	2,151	24,131,164	59,474	277,507
Ghana	18,872,553	68,152	277	65,473	4	62,821	4,585	6,271	1,067	12,461,885	145,637	236,088
Gibraltar	27,033	108	250	94	-8*	102	1	6	2	13,959	24	161
Greece	10,539,771	28,005	376	27,625	1	27,354	716	3,326	395	5,094,612	9,616	46,414
Greenland	56,124	131	428	124	-11*	140	21	23	7	27,296	107	262
Grenada	96,000	612	157	590	1	582	9	61	9	106,174	516	1,445
Guadeloupe	422,000	7,548	56	7,383	-1*	7,487	189	490	106	1,062,593	5,484	17,754
Guam	154,805	617	251	611	1	605	28	143	10	166,380	796	2,098
Guatemala	10,300,000	21,260	484	20,300	4	19,511	1,199	2,291	295	3,969,032	17,663	63,501
Guinea	7,613,870	574	13,265	571	-13*	657	48	116	19	192,227	1,253	2,763
Guinea-Bissau	1,213,000	86	14,105	73	14	64	4	28	3	42,556	339	833
Guyana	777,648	2,290	340	2,099	3	2,030	110	257	37	388,520	2,298	9,404
Haiti	7,300,000	12,265	595	11,422	1	11,290	751	1,337	215	2,263,102	16,013	64,673
Hawaii	1,211,537	7,490	162	7,319	0	7,325	191	1,186	98	1,613,738	4,871	18,185
Honduras	6,640,041	13,161	505	12,617	6	11,872	742	1,587	191	2,750,253	15,058	44,551
Hong Kong	6,600,000	4,742	1,392	4,547	2	4,464	174	884	45	1,190,845	4,257	8,906
Hungary	10,197,119	21,921	465	20,451	1	20,203	721	1,789	253	3,429,773	10,320	42,185
Iceland	282,849	309	915	302	-3*	310	8	36	7	54,691	158	534
India	1,027,015,247	22,917	44,815	21,224	3	20,572	1,226	1,684	512	3,190,856	14,228	52,725
Indonesia	210,000,000	16,136	13,014	15,287	5	14,589	757	1,259	368	2,895,595	14,620	36,158
Ireland	5,525,700	4,726	1,169	4,491	1	4,456	83	593	115	907,770	1,540	8,195
Israel	9,360,000	1,206	7,761	1,122	10	1,018	68	104	13	210,029	782	2,587
Italy	57,844,017	228,822	253	226,683	0	225,748	5,323	31,655	3,016	47,674,171	86,086	412,503
Jamaica	2,502,030	11,059	226	10,580	0	10,593	498	1,132	195	1,785,223	9,914	37,061
Japan	126,714,000	220,113	576	218,866	-1*	220,538	4,139	73,695	3,305	73,324,070	134,769	345,223
Kazakhstan	16,733,227	12,992	1,288	12,610	0	12,581	1,191	1,650	121	2,628,245	10,774	31,969
Kenya	30,500,000	16,079	1,897	15,343	7	14,289	1,511	3,000	367	4,475,775	23,883	44,280
Kiribati	78,300	104	753	76	-7*	82	1	16	1	25,080	200	436
Korea, Republic of	47,676,233	88,239	540	87,363	1	86,921	2,761	35,101	1,422	34,276,400	52,462	135,098
Kosrae	9,351	18	520	15	0	15		6	1	7,629	53	95
Kyrgyzstan	4,685,230	3,693	1,269	3,533	0	3,542	220	398	35	626,290	2,436	8,833
Latvia	2,357,600	2,181	1,081	2,091	4	2,007	114	410	31	588,548	2,075	4,515
Lebanon	3,578,036	3,593	996	3,469	0	3,486	105	253	71	561,633	1,675	6,835

Country or Territory	Population	2001 Peak Pubs.	Ratio, One Publisher to:	2001 Av. Pubs.	% Inc. Over 2000	2000 Av. Pubs.	2001 No. Bptzd.	Avg. Pio. Pubs.	No. of Congs.	Total Hours	Av. Bible Studies	Memorial Attendance
Lesotho	2,182,744	2,644	826	2,541	6	2,408	258	325	69	591,889	3,235	7,447
Liberia	3,089,000	3,548	871	3,396	9	3,118	422	723	51	1,162,015	10,695	19,714
Libya	4,992,838	26	192,032	11	83	6		2		1,636	13	22
Liechtenstein	32,673	49	667	48	-4*	50		2	1	5,459	13	96
Lithuania	3,700,000	2,537	1,458	2,432	4	2,330	146	382	30	582,653	1,793	5,863
Luxembourg	511,419	1,811	282	1,779	-2*	1,816	27	139	32	283,453	661	3,461
Macao	500,000	107	4,673	104	-4*	108	2	25	2	35,496	96	249
Macedonia	2,000,000	1,044	1,916	1,015	4	977	43	159	15	247,174	669	2,972
Madagascar	15,054,006	11,620	1,296	11,323	6	10,717	980	1,923	262	2,826,344	25,422	58,937
Madeira	242,603	1,091	222	1,058	1	1,044	48	83	16	165,374	551	2,010
Malawi	10,401,537	49,196	211	47,591	8	44,172	4,728	6,034	781	9,502,669	38,689	156,462
Malaysia	23,270,000	2,208	10,539	2,148	4	2,069	113	355	48	534,538	2,773	5,824
Mali	11,500,000	194	59,278	170	-1*	171	9	52	7	78,925	397	695
Malta	386,350	571	677	542	2	533	18	54	7	91,793	176	933
Marshall Islands	65,875	226	291	213	4	204	20	54	4	70,968	573	1,463
Martinique	380,460	4,042	94	3,901	0	3,899	91	343	46	660,160	2,709	8,643
Mauritius	1,160,100	1,382	839	1,361	5	1,295	61	117	21	245,866	1,139	3,372
Mayotte	137,320	55	2,497	50	-12*	57	3	9	2	15,069	72	150
Mexico	100,143,610	542,117	185	535,712	2	526,913	21,718	65,216	11,118	102,888,361	549,449	1,681,880
Moldova	4,264,300	18,370	232	17,401	3	16,856	1,123	1,765	189	2,595,811	9,480	44,208
Mongolia	2,662,000	36	73,944	30	30	23	2	14	1	20,850	80	201
Montserrat	3,000	9	333	7	40	5			1	491	2	27
Mozambique	17,656,153	35,843	493	34,347	8	31,725	3,537	5,880	854	8,350,940	48,138	147,899
Myanmar	51,100,000	2,984	17,125	2,868	8	2,664	146	362	106	614,734	2,039	7,233
Namibia	1,860,000	1,202	1,547	999	11	904	98	104	19	203,097	1,174	3,162
Nauru	10,600	9	1,178	6	20	5			1	424	3	124
Nepal	23,930,000	500	47,860	446	13	393	59	66	6	97,627	620	1,603
Netherlands	15,987,075	31,455	508	29,125	-1*	29,287	538	1,834	417	3,899,398	7,928	52,640
Nevis	10,080	58	174	54	0	54	2	7	1	11,389	49	157
New Caledonia	212,000	1,546	137	1,502	0	1,501	50	124	22	247,824	1,316	4,373
New Zealand	3,849,000	13,192	292	12,456	0	12,461	351	1,165	167	2,050,858	5,366	25,639
Nicaragua	5,100,000	15,502	329	14,639	4	14,062	930	1,891	264	3,246,370	20,802	64,146
Niger	7,490,000	227	32,996	207	-6*	220	13	44	11	64,292	348	1,084
Nigeria	123,337,822	245,678	502	235,870	5	224,978	14,943	33,805	4,457	45,658,593	382,253	639,237
Niue	1,748	26	67	24	-8*	26	3	1	1	4,072	15	56
Norfolk Island	2,085	16	130	15	-6*	16	1	1	1	1,403	3	20
Norway	4,513,000	9,784	461	9,348	-1*	9,396	183	571	171	1,174,891	2,829	16,351
Pakistan	141,032,351	606	232,727	563	11	509	66	88	12	134,916	636	2,654
Panama	2,896,855	10,115	286	9,551	3	9,296	645	1,266	196	1,998,041	10,920	33,235
Papua New Guinea	5,289,406	3,434	1,540	3,103	2	3,050	141	343	52	601,007	3,076	16,645
Paraguay	5,633,359	7,618	739	6,850	5	6,502	403	996	96	1,504,539	7,077	16,625
Peru	26,347,000	78,904	334	71,687	6	67,498	5,656	18,186	828	21,082,506	106,769	221,083
Philippines	76,000,000	138,430	549	135,867	1	134,257	7,257	26,109	3,467	26,165,542	92,271	424,306
Pohnpei	41,698	71	587	68	0	68	7	14	1	19,417	164	461
Poland	38,641,000	124,086	311	123,034	0	122,575	3,478	7,313	1,769	14,438,033	40,846	235,775
Portugal	9,833,408	47,414	207	46,573	0	46,586	1,253	3,648	652	7,303,271	18,883	94,465
Puerto Rico	3,800,000	25,132	151	24,785	-1*	25,021	747	2,693	331	4,371,348	13,067	59,392
Réunion	728,193	2,640	276	2,548	0	2,557	68	236	34	454,468	1,414	5,425
Rodrigues	36,200	37	978	32	-11*	36	4	5	1	7,713	35	88
Romania	22,430,570	38,763	579	38,311	0	38,179	1,551	3,583	560	5,942,209	17,512	86,981
Rota	2,731	9	303	9	0	9	2	1	1	2,294	7	44
Russia	146,693,000	120,577	1,217	114,137	4	109,223	8,951	16,880	1,140	26,409,921	96,650	275,525
Rwanda	8,585,000	9,058	948	8,100	15	7,027	1,308	1,734	181	2,864,585	18,612	41,854
Saba	1,600	3	533	3	0	3	2	2	1,335	13	10	

Country or Territory	Population	2001 Peak Pubs.	Ratio, One Publisher to:	2001 Av. Pubs.	% Inc. Over 2000	2000 Av. Pubs.	2001 No. Bptzd.	Av. Pio. Pubs.	No. of Congs.	Total Hours	Av. Bible Studies	Memorial Attendance
St. Eustatius	2,900	16	181	13	-7*	14	1	1	2,273	15	79	
St. Helena	4,971	135	37	130	-6*	139	2	2	11,781	52	301	
St. Kitts	31,800	154	206	143	5	136	11	25	34,368	204	574	
St. Lucia	138,150	686	201	679	1	675	25	99	9	144,288	751	2,004
St. Maarten	40,000	294	136	257	-2*	262	7	43	3	61,060	298	888
St. Pierre & Miquelon	6,600	20	330	18	6	17	2	1	3,320	7	28	
St. Vincent	111,380	298	374	282	-4*	295	7	43	7	69,216	319	962
Saipan	62,392	174	359	166	-7*	178	6	26	2	40,643	243	545
Samoa	170,727	401	426	360	-3*	372	6	66	8	86,284	306	1,338
San Marino	25,061	181	138	179	-2*	182	7	19	2	36,849	69	309
São Tomé & Príncipe	154,777	361	429	326	16	280	41	95	7	117,848	1,177	1,907
Senegal	9,500,000	903	10,520	884	3	861	35	168	22	275,643	1,357	2,400
Seychelles	80,410	225	357	215	1	213	6	18	4	39,443	247	601
Sierra Leone	5,426,618	1,052	5,158	947	17	811	76	152	20	258,034	1,828	5,130
Slovakia	5,402,547	12,263	441	12,132	-1*	12,261	284	510	170	1,458,538	3,573	23,957
Slovenia	1,990,740	1,859	1,071	1,842	0	1,836	55	235	29	400,329	626	3,247
Solomon Islands	409,042	1,699	241	1,644	4	1,577	122	289	39	371,507	1,815	5,973
South Africa	44,560,644	71,535	623	67,338	3	65,658	4,034	8,275	1,419	13,753,078	74,455	181,207
Spain	39,513,630	101,500	389	95,774	0	95,773	1,461	10,791	1,321	18,372,229	26,128	162,754
Sri Lanka	19,238,575	3,432	5,606	3,222	5	3,070	247	378	76	659,858	2,752	9,310
Suriname	445,673	2,042	218	1,957	1	1,944	99	281	38	426,479	2,219	6,550
Swaziland	929,718	2,158	431	1,994	4	1,918	132	257	69	460,530	2,393	6,272
Sweden	8,894,674	22,850	389	22,222	-1*	22,533	368	2,014	332	3,182,159	6,949	36,696
Switzerland	7,206,100	17,315	416	17,018	-2*	17,307	313	997	287	2,399,406	6,104	29,670
Tahiti	219,521	1,715	128	1,696	-4*	1,773	39	137	26	270,970	1,385	4,960
Taiwan	22,125,000	4,372	5,061	4,258	6	4,018	284	1,103	61	1,416,197	5,171	10,547
Tajikistan	6,440,732	305	21,117	268	0	267	11	28	3	59,083	371	1,145
Tanzania	32,844,350	10,524	3,121	9,176	9	8,380	1,030	1,686	254	2,429,363	13,717	39,509
Thailand	61,878,746	1,941	31,880	1,901	5	1,814	80	312	56	446,814	1,839	4,451
Tinian	3,540	15	236	14	0	14	5	1	5,791	39	51	
Togo	4,735,000	11,927	397	11,550	5	10,981	795	1,445	189	2,563,629	26,196	49,922
Tokelau	1,700	4	425	3	-25*	4	1	326	1	18		
Tonga	100,283	150	669	130	10	118	21	23	3	32,830	173	470
Trinidad & Tobago	1,293,800	8,090	160	7,967	0	8,007	314	1,213	92	1,510,828	8,002	21,970
Turkey	70,000,000	1,621	43,183	1,602	3	1,562	81	220	25	366,828	947	2,857
Turks & Caicos Isls.	18,122	124	146	114	-8*	124	4	8	3	20,783	138	410
Tuvalu	9,403	59	159	56	27	44	11	4	3	8,221	41	144
Uganda	22,000,000	2,721	8,085	2,589	6	2,445	267	355	49	606,711	4,511	9,819
Ukraine	49,291,200	120,028	411	114,377	6	108,184	8,702	14,289	1,183	22,757,295	75,098	282,358
U.S. of America	279,583,437	979,637	285	945,689	0	945,000	27,731	121,697	11,582	178,831,678	416,556	2,163,602
Uruguay	3,030,000	10,574	287	10,387	1	10,335	374	845	143	1,477,353	6,943	22,310
Vanuatu	195,000	318	613	283	8	262	14	31	5	55,159	485	1,052
Venezuela	24,631,900	88,541	278	84,570	3	82,076	4,412	13,777	1,253	19,749,137	104,503	296,847
Virgin Isls. (Brit.)	17,000	177	96	169	6	160	4	27	2	35,831	144	630
Virgin Isls. (U.S.)	108,600	668	163	627	1	623	15	94	9	130,649	547	1,845
Wallis & Futuna Isls.	15,000	74	203	54	15	47	5	7	1	13,462	81	344
Yap	11,241	25	450	22	-12*	25	11	1	1	10,775	59	151
Yugoslavia, F. R.	10,546,983	4,056	2,600	3,987	2	3,919	143	607	58	930,468	1,858	8,775
Zambia	10,583,914	122,907	86	107,772	4	103,569	8,012	12,594	2,111	20,395,765	161,015	514,277
Zimbabwe	12,000,000	32,396	370	27,388	1	27,164	2,836	3,481	961	5,527,714	40,220	73,445
28 Other Lands		9,914		9,316	4	8,961	337	1,323	161	2,191,378	10,107	25,430
GRAND TOTAL (235 Lands)		6,117,666		5,881,776	1.7	5,783,003	263,431	787,439	93,154	1,169,082,225	4,921,702	15,374,986

During the 2001 service year, Jehovah's Witnesses spent over \$70.9 million in caring for special pioneers, missionaries, and traveling overseers in their field service assignments.

MEMORIAL PARTAKERS WORLDWIDE: 8,730

* Percentage of decrease



JEHOVAH HAS PROVIDED “POWER BEYOND WHAT IS NORMAL”

AS TOLD BY
HELEN MARKS

It was a sultry summer day in 1986. I was the only one waiting in the customs shed in one of Europe's sleepiest airports.

This was Tirane, the capital of Albania, which had proclaimed itself “the first atheist state in the world.”

WITH mixed feelings of uncertainty and trepidation, I watched as an armed officer began searching my luggage. If I did or said anything to make him suspicious, the result could be expulsion from the country for me and prison or labor camp for the people waiting for me outside. Happily, I was able to encourage the officer to be more friendly by offering him some chewing gum and cookies. But how did I, a woman in her mid-60's, end up in this situation? Why would I forfeit a comfortable life and risk trying to further Kingdom interests in one of the last strongholds of Marxism-Leninism?

A Sickly Girl Full of Questions

Two years after my birth in 1920 in Ierápetra, Crete, my father died of pneumonia. Mother was poor and illiterate. I was the youngest of four children, and since I suffered from jaundice, I was pale and sickly. Neighbors suggested that my mother devote her attention and limited resources to the three healthier children and let me die. I am glad that she did not follow that advice.

To ensure that Father's soul was resting in heaven, Mother visited the cemetery often, usually employing the services of an Orthodox priest. Those services, though, did not

come cheap. I still remember a bitterly cold Christmas day when she returned home from the cemetery with me shuffling along beside her. We had just given the last of our money to the priest. After Mother cooked some greens for us children, she retired to another room, her stomach empty and her cheeks stained with tears of despair. Some time later, I mustered up the courage to go to the priest and ask why Father had died and why my poor mother had to pay the priest. He responded in a sheepish whisper: "God took him. That's how it is. You'll get over it."

It was hard for me to reconcile his answer with the Lord's prayer, which I had learned in school. I still remember its beautiful and meaningful opening words: "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." (Matthew 6:9, 10) If God meant for his will to be done on earth, why did we have to suffer so much?

I almost got the answer to that question when, in 1929, Emmanuel Lionoudakis, a full-time preacher of Jehovah's Witnesses, visited our home.* When my mother asked him what he wanted, Emmanuel did not say a word but handed her a testimony card. She gave me the card to read. Since I was only nine years old, I understood little. Taking the visiting preacher for mute, my mother replied: "Poor thing! You cannot speak, and I cannot read." Then she kindly showed him the door.

A few years later, I did find the answer. My brother, Emmanuel Paterakis, received from the same full-time minister the booklet *Where Are the Dead?*, published by Jehovah's Witnesses.* Reading it, I was relieved to learn that my father had not been taken by God. I

* For the life story of Emmanuel Lionoudakis, see *The Watchtower*, September 1, 1999, pages 25-9.

* For the life story of Emmanuel Paterakis, see *The Watchtower*, November 1, 1996, pages 22-7.

realized that death is the result of human imperfection and that my father is awaiting a resurrection to life on a paradise earth.

"This Book Has Destroyed You!"

Bible truth opened our eyes. We found an old Bible that had belonged to Father and started studying it, often by candlelight around the fireplace. Since I was the only young woman in the area who had taken an interest in the Bible, I was not included in the activities of the small local group of Witnesses. For a time, I seriously—though incorrectly—believed that this religion was only for males.

My brother's enthusiasm for the preaching work was a source of inspiration to me. It was not long before the police began to take an interest in our family, paying us regular visits at all hours of the day and night to search for Emmanuel and for literature. I vividly remember when a priest came to convince us to return to church. When Emmanuel showed him from the Bible that God's name is Jehovah, the priest grabbed the Bible, waved it menacingly before my brother's face, and shouted, "This book has destroyed you!"

In 1940 when Emmanuel refused to serve in the army, he was arrested and sent to the Albanian front. We lost contact with him and thought that he was dead. Two years later, however, we unexpectedly received a letter from him sent from prison. He was alive and well! One of the scriptures he cited in that letter has been indelibly fixed in my mind ever since: "As regards Jehovah, his eyes are roving about through all the earth to show his strength in behalf of those whose heart is complete toward him." (2 Chronicles 16:9) How greatly we needed such encouragement!

From his prison, Emmanuel was able to ask some brothers to visit me. Immediately,

secret Christian meetings were arranged to be held in a farmhouse outside the town. Little did we know that we were being watched! One Sunday, armed policemen surrounded us. They loaded us into an open truck and paraded us through the town. I can still hear people deriding and scorning us, but Jehovah through his spirit gave us inner peace.

We were transferred to another town, where they threw us into some very dark and dirty cells. The toilet of my cell was an open bucket that was emptied once a day. I was sentenced to eight months in prison because I was considered to be the "teacher" of the group. However, a brother who was imprisoned there arranged for his lawyer to take up our case, and he was able to bring about our release.

A New Life

When Emmanuel was freed from prison, he started visiting congregations in Athens as a traveling overseer. I moved there in 1947. At last, I met a large group of Witnesses—not only men but women and children too. Finally, in July 1947, I was able to symbolize my dedication to Jehovah by water baptism. I often dreamed about becoming a missionary and started attending evening school to learn English. In 1950, I became a pioneer. Mother came to live with me, and she too embraced the Bible's truth. She remained one of Jehovah's Witnesses until her death 34 years later.

In that same year, I met John Marks (Markopoulos), a well-respected, spiritual



Above: John (far left), me (center), with my brother Emmanuel to my left and our mother to his left, with a group of Bethelites, Athens, 1950



Left: With John at our business at the New Jersey shore, 1956

man from the United States. John was born in southern Albania, and after immigrating to

the United States, he became one of Jehovah's Witnesses. In 1950 he was in Greece trying to obtain a visa for Albania—by then a closed country under the strictest form of Communism. Although John had not seen his family since 1936, he was not permitted to enter Albania. I was touched by his fiery zeal for Jehovah's service and his deep love for the brotherhood. We were married on April 3, 1953. Then I moved with him to our new home in New Jersey, U.S.A.

In order to support ourselves while preaching full-time, John and I had a small business at the New Jersey shore, preparing



**District convention
in Tirane, Albania,
1995**

breakfast for fishermen. We worked only during the summer months, from dawn till 9:00 a.m. By keeping our life simple and our priorities focused on spiritual activities, we were able to spend most of our time in the preaching work. Over the years, we were asked to move to various towns where the need for preachers was great. There, with Jehovah's help, we assisted interested ones, established congregations, and helped construct Kingdom Halls.

Assisting Our Brothers in Need

Soon, however, an exciting prospect opened up for us. Responsible brothers wanted to establish communications with fellow Christians living in Balkan lands where our activities were under ban. For years Jehovah's Witnesses in those countries had been cut off from the international brotherhood, receiv-



**Bethel complex,
Tirane, Albania.
Completed 1996**



*With my niece, Evangelia Orphanides (right),
and her husband, George*

ing little or no spiritual food, and they faced cruel opposition. Most of them were under constant surveillance, and many were in prison or labor camps. They urgently needed Bible-based publications, direction, and encouragement. For example, one coded message we received from Albania read: "Pray to the Lord for us. Seizure of literature house to house. They do not allow us to study. Three persons interned."

Thus, in November 1960 we started a six-month-long trip to visit some of those countries. It was obvious that we would need "power beyond what is normal," God-given courage, boldness, and ingenuity to accomplish our mission. (2 Corinthians 4:7) Our



*Above: article
from a 1940
"Watchtower"
secretly translated
into Albanian*

first destination was Albania. We bought a car in Paris and set off. After we reached Rome, only John was able to obtain a visa for Albania. I had to proceed to Athens, Greece, and wait for him.

John entered Albania late February 1961 and stayed there until the end of March. In Tiranë he met in person with 30 brothers. How thrilled they were to get much-needed literature and encouragement! They had not received a visit from outside for 24 years.

John was moved by the integrity and endurance of those brothers. He learned that many had lost their jobs and were interned because they did not participate in the activities of the Communist state. He was particularly touched when two brothers in their 80's gave him a donation of about 100 dollars (U.S.) for the preaching work. They had been saving for years from their meager state pensions.

The last day of John's stay in Albania was March 30, 1961—the date of the Memorial of Jesus' death. John gave the Memorial talk to an audience of 37. At the end of the talk, the brothers quickly rushed John out the back door and drove him to the port of Durrës, where he boarded a Turkish merchant ship heading for Piraiévs (Piraeus), Greece.

I was happy to have him back safe and sound. Now we could embark on the rest of our hazardous voyage. Our trip took us through three other Balkan countries that had banned our work—a risky venture, since we carried Bible literature, typewriters, and other supplies. We were privileged to meet some very loyal brothers and sisters who were ready to risk their jobs, their freedom, and even their lives for Jehovah. Their zeal and genuine love were a source of inspiration. We were also impressed that Jehovah supplied "the power beyond what is normal."

After the successful completion of our journey, we returned to the United States. In

the years that followed, we continued using various ways to try to send literature to Albania and to receive reports of our brothers' activities.

In Journeys Often, in Dangers

The years passed, and John's death in 1981, when he was 76, left me alone. My niece, Evangelia, and her husband, George Orphanides, kindly took me in, and they have provided valuable emotional and practical support ever since. They themselves had witnessed Jehovah's support while serving under ban in Sudan.*

Eventually, a new effort was to be made to communicate with our brothers in Albania. Since my husband's relatives lived there, I was asked whether I would be willing to make a trip into that country. Of course I would!

After months of persistent efforts, in May 1986, I was able to obtain a visa from the Albanian embassy in Athens. Diplomatic staff members sternly warned me that if anything went wrong, I could not expect any help from the outside world. When I approached a travel agent to buy air tickets for Albania, he was dumbfounded. Without letting fear stop me, I was soon aboard the sole weekly plane from Athens to Tiranë. Only three very old Albanians were on the same plane; they had been in Greece for medical reasons.

As soon as the plane landed, I was ushered into an empty shed that served as a customs office. My husband's brother and sister, although not Jehovah's Witnesses, were willing to help me establish contact with the few local brothers. By law, they had to inform the head of the community about my arrival. As a result, I was very closely watched by the police. Thus, my relatives suggested that I stay in their home while they searched for two of

* See 1992 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses, pages 91-2, published by Jehovah's Witnesses.

the brothers who lived in Tirane and brought them to me.

At that time, nine dedicated brothers were known to be in all of Albania. Years of ban, persecution, and close surveillance had made them very cautious. Deep lines marked their faces. After I gained the confidence of the two brothers, their first question was: "Where are *The Watchtowers*?" For years they had only two copies of older books—not even a Bible.

They spoke at length about the cruel measures the regime had taken against them. They mentioned the case of a dear brother who was determined to remain politically neutral in an upcoming vote. Since the State controlled everything, this meant that his family would not receive any food rations. His married children and their families would all be sent to prison, although they had nothing to do with his religious beliefs. It was reported that members of this brother's family, because of fear, killed him the night before the vote, dumped his body in a well, and later claimed that he got scared and killed himself.

The poverty of those fellow Christians was heartrending. Yet, when I tried to give each of them a 20-dollar bill, they declined, saying, "We want only spiritual food." These dear brothers had lived for decades under a totalitarian regime that had successful-

ly indoctrinated the majority of the population to become atheists. But their faith and determination were as strong as that of Witnesses elsewhere. Jehovah's ability to provide "power beyond what is normal," even under the most difficult of circumstances, had been truly impressed on me by the time I left Albania two weeks later.

I also had the privilege of visiting Albania in 1989 and again in 1991. As freedom of speech and religion gradually blossomed in that country, the number of worshipers of Jehovah increased rapidly. The handful of dedicated Christians who were there in 1986 has now grown to more than 2,200 active publishers. Among them was Melpo, my husband's sister. Can there be any doubt that Jehovah's blessing was on that faithful group?

With Jehovah's Power, a Full Life

When I look back, I am confident that our work—John's and mine—has not been in vain. We used our youthful strength in the most beneficial way. Our career in the full-time ministry has been more meaningful than any other that we could have pursued. I rejoice over the many dear ones whom we have helped to learn Bible truth. Now advanced in age, I can wholeheartedly encourage younger ones to 'remember their Grand Creator in the days of their youth.'—Ecclesiastes 12:1.

Despite being 81 years of age, I am still able to serve as a full-time publisher of the good news. I get up early and witness to people at bus stops, in parking lots, on the street, in shops, or in parks. The problems of old age now make life difficult, but my loving spiritual brothers and sisters—my large spiritual family—as well as the family of my niece, have proved to be a real support. Above all, I have learned that "the power beyond what is normal [is] God's and not that out of ourselves."—2 Corinthians 4:7.

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

Do You Trust in a God Who Is Real?

Jehovah—The Supreme Example of Goodness

Brothers Who Developed Different Attitudes

ELDERS

Train Others to Carry the Load

IN CONGREGATIONS of Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide, there is an urgent need for men who can serve in positions of oversight. There are three main reasons for this development.

First, Jehovah is fulfilling his promise to make "the small one a mighty nation." (Isaiah 60:22) By his undeserved kindness, almost one million new disciples have been baptized as Jehovah's Witnesses in the past three years. Responsible men are needed to help these newly baptized ones to progress to Christian maturity.—Hebrews 6:1.

Second, some who have served as elders for decades have been forced by advancing age or health problems to reduce the work load they are carrying in the congregation.

Third, a number of zealous Christian elders now serve as members of Hospital Liaison Committees, Regional Building Committees, or Assembly Hall Committees. In some cases they have had to achieve balance by relinquishing at least some of their responsibilities in their local congregation.

How can the pressing need for additional qualified men be met? *Training* is the key. The Bible encourages Christian overseers to train "faithful men, who, in turn, will be adequately qualified to teach others." (2 Timothy 2:2) According to a dictionary, the verb "to train" means "to teach so as to make fit, qualified, or proficient." Let us consider how elders can train other qualified men.

Follow Jehovah's Example

Jesus Christ was certainly 'fit, qualified, and proficient' in his work—and no wonder! He was trained by Jehovah God himself.

What factors made this training program so effective? Jesus mentioned three, as recorded at John 5:20: "The Father [1] has affection for the Son and [2] shows him all the things he himself does, and he will show him [3] works greater than these." An examination of each of these factors will provide insight into the subject of training.

Note that Jesus first said: "The Father *has affection* for the Son." From the dawn of creation, a warm bond existed between Jehovah and his Son. Proverbs 8:30 sheds light on that relationship: "Then I [Jesus] came to be beside him [Jehovah God] as a master worker, and I came to be the one he was *specially fond of* day by day, I *being glad before him* all the time." There was no doubt in Jesus' mind that Jehovah was "specially fond" of him. And Jesus did not hide the joy he felt while working at his Father's side. How fine it is when a warm, open relationship exists between Christian elders and those whom they are training!

The second factor that Jesus mentioned is that the Father "*shows him* all the things he himself does." These words confirm what is stated at Proverbs 8:30, namely, that Jesus "came to be beside" Jehovah while the universe was being created. (Genesis 1:26) Elders can follow that excellent example by working closely with ministerial servants, showing them how to carry out their duties in a fine way. Newly appointed ministerial servants are not the only ones who need progressive training, however. What about those faithful brothers who have been reaching out for the office of overseer for many years but who have never been appointed? (1 Timothy 3:1)

The elders should offer specific counsel to such men so that they will know how to direct their efforts.

For example, a ministerial servant may be reliable, punctual, and conscientious in caring for his duties. He may also be a fine teacher. In many respects he may be doing excellent work in the congregation. He may not realize, however, that he tends to be abrasive in his dealings with fellow Christians. Elders need to display "a mildness that belongs to wisdom." (James 3:13) Would it not be a kindness for an elder to speak with the ministerial servant, clearly outlining the problem, giving specific examples, and making practical suggestions for improvement? If the elder carefully 'seasons his counsel with salt,' his comments will likely be well received. (Colossians 4:6) Of course, the ministerial servant will make the elder's task much more pleasant by being open and receptive to any counsel he receives.—Psalm 141:5.

In some congregations, elders are providing practical, ongoing training to ministerial servants. For example, they take qualified ministerial servants along with them when they visit the sick or the elderly. In this way the ministerial servants gain experience in the shepherding work. Of course, there is much a ministerial servant can do to further his own spiritual progress.—See box below

entitled "What Ministerial Servants Can Do."

The third factor that made Jesus' training so effective was that Jehovah trained him with future progress in mind. Jesus said of the Father that he would show the Son "*works greater than these.*" The experience Jesus gained when on earth enabled him to develop qualities that he would need for carrying out future assignments. (Hebrews 4:15; 5:8, 9) For example, what a weighty assignment Jesus will soon receive—that of resurrecting and judging billions of people now dead!—John 5:21, 22.

When training ministerial servants, elders today should have future needs in mind. While there may seem to be enough elders and ministerial servants to care for present needs, will that be the case if a new congregation is formed? If several congregations are formed? During the past three years, there were more than 6,000 new congregations worldwide. What a large number of elders and ministerial servants are needed to care for those new congregations!

Elders, are you following Jehovah's example by cultivating a warm personal relationship with the men you are training? Are you showing them how to carry out their work? Are you mindful of future needs? Following Jehovah's example in his training of Jesus will result in rich blessings to many.

What Ministerial Servants Can Do

While elders should provide training for ministerial servants, there is much that ministerial servants can do to further their own spiritual progress.

—Ministerial servants should be diligent and reliable in caring for their assignments. They should also develop good study habits. To a considerable extent, progress is dependent upon study and application of the things learned.

—When a ministerial servant prepares to

deliver a talk at a Christian meeting, he should not hesitate to ask a capable elder for suggestions on how to present the material.

—The ministerial servant may also ask an elder to observe how he delivers a Bible talk and to offer counsel for improvement.

Ministerial servants should seek out, accept, and apply counsel from the elders. In this way, their advancement will "be manifest to all persons."—1 Timothy 4:15.

Do Not Be Afraid to Delegate

Capable elders who are accustomed to juggling a number of weighty assignments may be somewhat reluctant to delegate authority to others. They may have tried to do so in the past but with unsatisfactory results. So they may adopt the attitude, 'If you want a job to be done well, you have to do it yourself.' But does this attitude harmonize with Jehovah's will, as expressed in the Scriptures, that less experienced men receive training from those more experienced?—2 Timothy 2:2.

The apostle Paul was disappointed when one of his traveling companions, John Mark, abandoned his assignment at Pamphylia and returned home. (Acts 15:38, 39) However, Paul did not allow that setback to discourage him from training others. He selected another young brother, Timothy, and trained him in the missionary work.* (Acts 16:1-3) At Beroea the missionaries encountered such fierce opposition that it became impractical for Paul to remain there. So he left the new congregation in the care of Silas, a mature older brother, and Timothy. (Acts 17:13-15) No doubt Timothy learned a great deal from Silas. Later, when Timothy was ready to assume further responsibility, Paul sent him to Thessalonica to encourage the congregation there.—1 Thessalonians 3:1-3.

The relationship between Paul and Timothy was not businesslike, cold, or impersonal. There was a warm bond between them. When writing to the congregation at Corinth, Paul referred to Timothy, whom he planned to send there, as his "beloved and faithful child in the Lord." He added: "[Timothy] will put you in mind of *my methods*

* Later, Paul once again worked with John Mark.—Colossians 4:10.



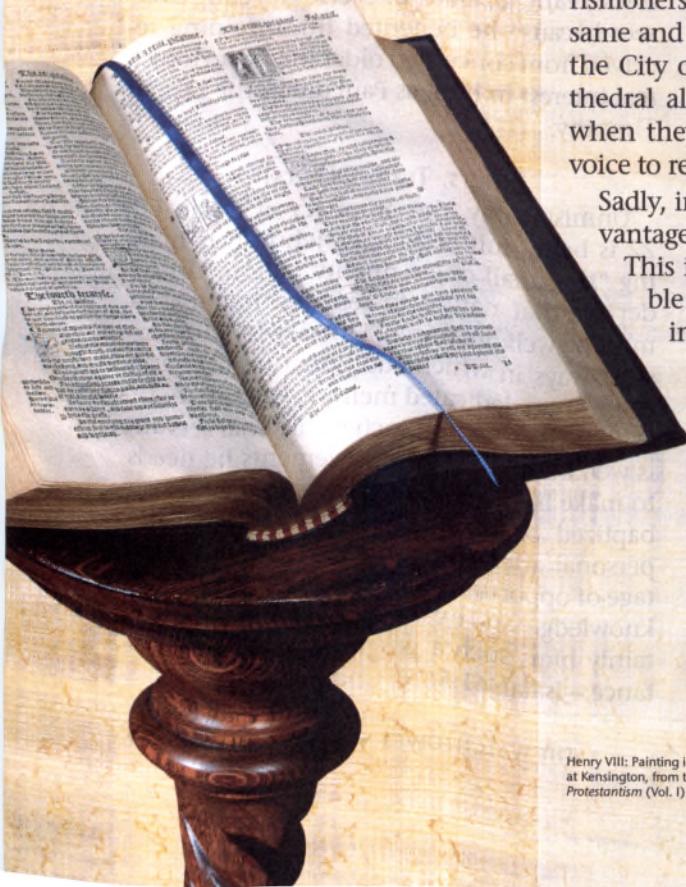
in connection with Christ Jesus." (1 Corinthians 4:17) Timothy responded to the training he received from Paul, becoming qualified in carrying out his assignments. Many a young brother has become a capable ministerial servant, an elder, or even a traveling overseer because he benefited from training received from concerned older men who took a real interest in him, as Paul did in the case of Timothy.

Elders, Train Others!

Unmistakably, the prophecy at Isaiah 60:22 is being fulfilled today. Jehovah is making "the small one a mighty nation." In order for that nation to remain "mighty," it must be well organized. Elders, why not consider ways in which additional training can be given to dedicated men who qualify to receive it? Be sure that each ministerial servant is well aware of any improvements he needs to make in order to make progress. And you baptized brothers, make the most of any personal attention you receive. Take advantage of opportunities to increase your ability, knowledge, and experience. Jehovah will certainly bless such a program of loving assistance.—Isaiah 61:5.



HENRY VIII AND THE BIBLE



IN HIS book *History of the English-Speaking Peoples* (Volume 2), Winston Churchill wrote: "In the field of religious belief the Reformation brought profound change. The Bible now acquired a new and far-reaching authority. The older generation considered that Holy Writ was dangerous in the hands of the unlearned and should only be read by priests."

The account continues: "Complete printed Bibles, translated into English by Tyndal and Coverdale, had appeared for the first time late in the autumn of 1535, and were now running through several editions. The Government enjoined the clergy to encourage Bible-reading." After centuries of Bible illiteracy, England was to become literate, but thanks to Henry VIII's government rather than to the church.*

"As a further blow to the old school the Government commissioned in Paris a great printing of English Bibles, more sumptuous than any previous edition, and in September 1538 directed that every parish in the country should purchase a Bible of the largest volume in English, to be set up in each church, where the parishioners might most commodiously resort to the same and read it. Six copies were set up in St Paul's, in the City of London, and multitudes thronged the cathedral all day to read them, especially, we are told, when they could get any person that had an audible voice to read aloud."

Sadly, in a number of nations, many do not take advantage of their privilege to read the Bible regularly.

This is great cause for concern, since only the Bible "is inspired of God and beneficial for teaching, for reproving, for setting things straight, for disciplining in righteousness."—2 Timothy 3:16.

* King Henry VIII ruled England from 1509 to 1547.