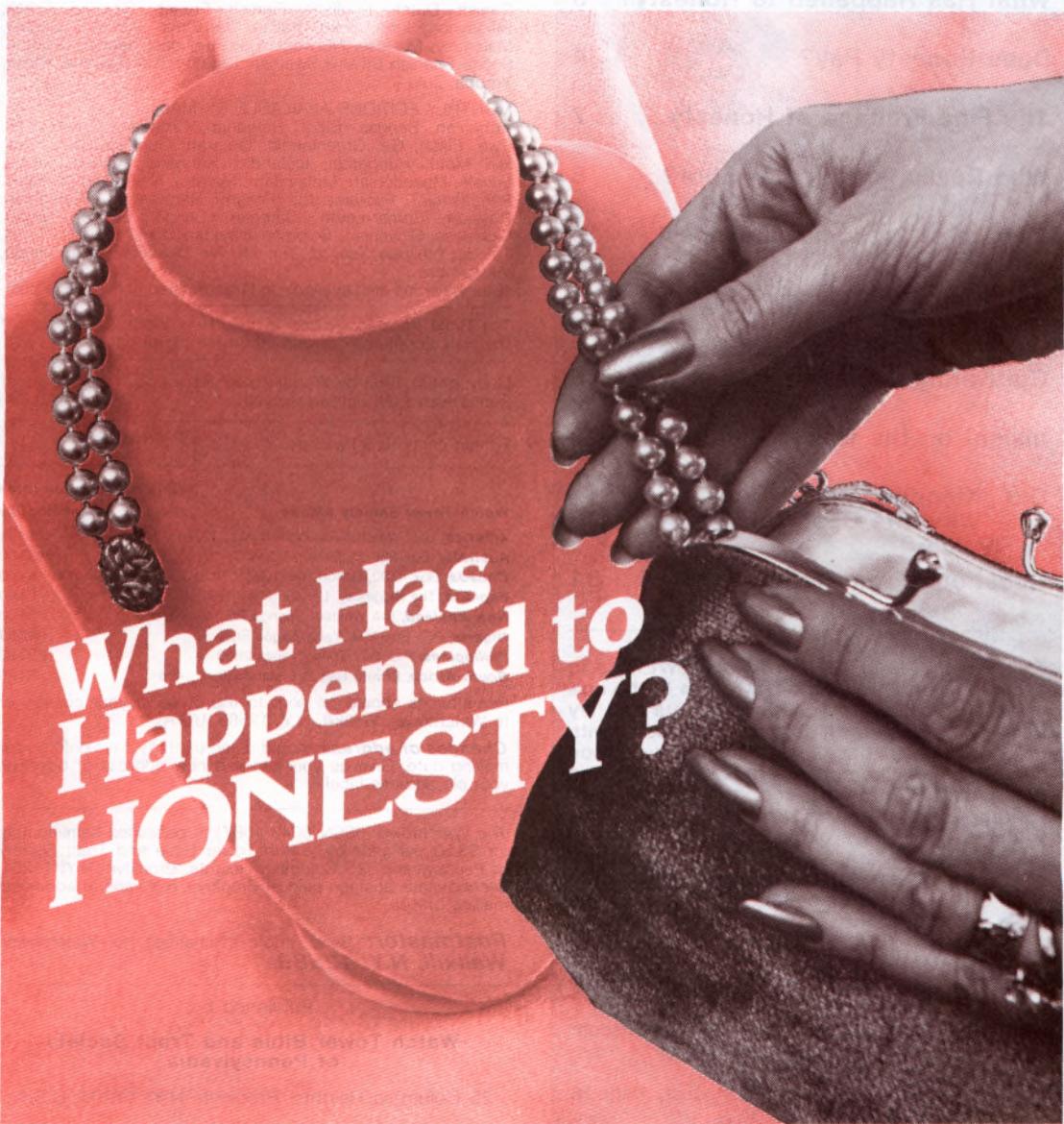




January 15, 1984

The Watchtower

Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom



What Has
Happened to
HONESTY?



The Watchtower®

Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom

January 15, 1984
Vol. 105, No. 2

In This Issue

What Has Happened to Honesty?	3
Does Honesty Pay?	4
The Fine Fruitage of Honesty	7
Who Really Is Your Neighbor?	8
Beware of Presumptuousness!	10
Christian Modesty—Proof of Wisdom	12
Cultivating Christian Modesty	18
Insight on the News	24
Our "Kingdom Unity" Convention —Why 'the Best Yet!'	25
Questions From Readers	31

THE PURPOSE OF "THE WATCHTOWER" is to exalt Jehovah God as the Sovereign of the universe. It keeps watch on world events as they 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 the 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.

"WATCHTOWER" STUDIES FOR THE WEEKS

- February 19: Christian Modesty—Proof of Wisdom.
Page 12. Songs to Be Used: 77, 71
- February 26: Cultivating Christian Modesty. Page 18.
Songs to Be Used: 42, 18

Average Printing Each Issue: 10,200,000

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*Study articles also available in large-print edition at same cost.

The Bible translation used is the "New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures," unless otherwise indicated.

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Fifteen cents (U.S.) a copy

Yearly subscription rates

Watch Tower Society offices	Semimonthly
America, U.S., Watchtower, Wallkill, N.Y. 12589	\$3.50
Australia, Box 280, Ingleburn, N.W. 2565	A\$5.00
Canada, Box 4100, Halton Hills (Georgetown), Ontario L7G 4Y4	\$4.00
England, The Ridgeway, London NW7 1RN	£4.00
New Zealand, 6-A Western Springs Rd., Auckland 3	\$5.00
Nigeria, P.O. Box 194, Yaba, Lagos State	N2.50
Philippines, P.O. Box 2044, Manila 2800	P30.00
South Africa, Private Bag 2, Elandsfontein, 1406	R4.80

Remittances should be sent to the office in your country or to Watchtower, Wallkill, N.Y. 12589, U.S.A.

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

The Watchtower (ISSN 0043-1087) is published semimonthly for \$3.50 per year by Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201. Second-class postage paid at Brooklyn, N.Y., and at additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Watchtower, Wallkill, N.Y. 12589.

Published by

**Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society
of Pennsylvania**

25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201, U.S.A.

Frederick W. Franz, President Grant Suiter, Secretary

What Has Happened to Honesty?

A CERTAIN firm in the United States went out of business. For more than 60 years it had sold garden seeds. Its agents were young boys and girls who wrote in for seeds, sold them to their neighbors and sent a portion of the money back to the firm. Why did the firm go out of business? Because the child-agents were dishonest. Too many of them failed to return the seeds or kept the money they got from selling them.

What would you conclude from the fact that a firm relying on the honesty of children could operate for 60 years but now was forced out of business? It seems as though children are not as honest as they used to be, does it not? However, children are not the only ones who are more dishonest. Middle-aged folk still remember the time when they could confidently leave their house with the front door unlocked, or leave a bicycle on the sidewalk and not have it stolen. It is not that way anymore in most places.

In a survey sent out by the magazine *Psychology Today*, most of the thousands who answered admitted to



either minor or major dishonesty. Ninety-three percent admitted that they occasionally drove faster than the speed limit. Sixty-eight percent had taken office supplies or other materials. Sixty-seven percent had cheated when possible on examinations or school assignments. Forty-five percent had cheated on their marriage mates. And many had sent in false tax returns, had failed to declare a dutiable item at customs, had improperly used the company phone to make long-distance calls or had cheated on an expense account.

Why All the Dishonesty?

Many reasons for dishonesty have been suggested. Here are some of them.

Parental example: When the seed firm wrote to the parents of the children that owed it money, it often received a letter to this effect: 'You're a big company; you don't need the money and you're only trying to cheat my child.' It is not difficult to see why those children learned to be dishonest.

Because it is easy: In replying to the above-mentioned survey a young

student wrote: "There is always the pressure to excel to make high grades, and even if I'm prepared for an exam, I may cheat anyway. . . . Students cheat openly and obviously and many teachers do little or nothing about it. In short: I do it because I can get away with it."

Poverty: Doubtless, poverty—or fear of poverty—leads to a lot of stealing and cheating, although people generally seem to have been more honest during the prewar Depression years despite widespread poverty. And many dishonest people are far from poor. Consider a case reported from Japan. A group of men were found to be cheating a railroad company. They had found a way to pay a little less than they should for the trip home after a day's golfing. Did they cheat because of poverty? Hardly. One of the cheaters was a company president!

Greed: A newspaper columnist wrote: "This naked lust for money underlies most of the nation's moral problems."

Bad example: This same columnist wrote: "Look, if you will, at our leaders. Our Congressmen, through slush funds and assorted 'perks,' leave what they are pleased to call 'public service'

indecently rich, with fat pensions. And what about our captains of industry? The robber baron is not extinct. There's hardly a corporate prince who hasn't made his boodle by selling America short."

A climate of dishonesty: A report in *Newsweek* magazine said: "Many of the same Americans who complain loudly about white-collar criminals are really small-time crooks themselves. Poor Americans cheat the welfare system and middle-class and upper-income citizens alike treat expense accounts as 'swindle sheets' and underreport their taxable earnings to the Internal Revenue Service. 'In this society, everyone partakes.'

Whatever the causes, though, how do you feel about dishonesty? Do you enjoy being lied to or cheated? Are you happy to pay higher insurance premiums because of widespread insurance fraud, or higher prices to cover shoplifting and employee theft? Would you consent to having your wife or husband cheat on you? Probably not. But this is what is happening today, and we are all affected in one way or another. In such a world, whom can you trust? Do things *have* to be this way?

Does Honesty Pay?

HONEST-HEARTED people are distressed by the dishonesty they see in the world. Some are even distressed by the dishonesty they find in themselves. One woman wrote: "I have . . .

been somewhat disappointed to notice what may be a deteriorating quality of my own truthfulness." Another said: "Too often lately it seems I take the path of least resistance."

But do we *have* to be dishonest just because so many others are? No. There are still people around who refuse to be dishonest, and some formerly dishonest individuals have changed. Where, though, can we find a good reason to stay honest in this dishonest world? In the Bible.

The Bible helps us to be honest because it was inspired by the most trustworthy Person of all, Jehovah God. It encourages us: "Trust in Jehovah with all your heart." (Proverbs 3:5) Expe-

Bible knowledge promotes honesty, and this pleases God

rience has shown that things always work out for the good of a person who trusts God to the extent of following His counsel, as in this matter of honesty.

How to Be Honest

Read some of the things God says about honesty. Then imagine what the world would be like if everyone followed them.

"Now that you have put away falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor."—Ephesians 4:25.

If everyone spoke only the truth, what would life be like? Why, there would be no dishonest politicians, no swindlers, not even any malicious gossipers!

"Let the stealer steal no more."—Ephesians 4:28.

Stealing includes such acts as filling out false tax returns, refusing to pay legitimate bills, taking materials from work without authorization, and fraudulently claiming welfare benefits, as

well as things like shoplifting and mugging. According to one estimate, the United States national budget would almost balance if everyone stopped stealing from the government.

"A cheating pair of scales is something detestable to Jehovah."—Proverbs 11:1.

How would you feel if you were sure to get a fair deal every time you went shopping? Just imagine a world with no sharp business practices, where you could buy a secondhand car or a new house with equal confidence!

"Let every soul be in subjection to the superior authorities."—Romans 13:1.

Speeding, ignoring traffic signals, submitting fraudulent tax returns and dropping litter are just four of the many ways that people fail to be subject to their governments. How different things would be if everyone rendered proper subjection to the "superior authorities"!

"If anyone does not want to work, neither let him eat."—2 Thessalonians 3:10.

Laziness is a major cause of dishonesty and crime. The Christian should be willing to work, not relying on others to support him.

"Let marriage be honorable among all, and the marriage bed be without defilement."—Hebrews 13:4.

In the survey mentioned earlier, nearly half of all the married people who were asked admitted to cheating on their marriage mates. Surely, you can see what a difference the observance of this command would make as regards human relationships.

Is It Practical?

These standards are clearly excellent. But are they practical today? The

answer is yes. God would not ask us to do something impractical or harmful to ourselves. Consider just a few of the advantages of being honest.

First, honesty leaves us with a clear conscience. This is not a negligible thing. Unless we are hardened by ha-

Honesty is practical. But in what ways?

bitual wrongdoing, we know when we have done wrong and it bothers us. Our conscience does not trouble us when we are honest.

Then, if we are honest we will not be punished for dishonesty. An honest person does not get caught smuggling goods through customs, cheating on taxes or mugging his neighbors.

Again, our being honest makes life more pleasant for those around us. It even helps them to be honest. After surveying employees in big department stores, the magazine *Psychology Today* said: "If employees think top management is behaving honestly, they will probably think they are expected to behave honestly . . . But if the employees perceive (correctly or incorrectly) that top management is dishonest, they will be more inclined to justify and excuse their own dishonesty." Most of us are not as influential as top management. But we all have some influence on those around us. And if we act honestly, that influence is good.

Furthermore, honesty leads to our being respected. A Christian employee at an airline office in Liberia found this to be true. She accepted a telephone call for her boss, and when he told her to say that he was out, she

explained that she could not tell a lie. He angrily had her moved to another department. Soon her new boss asked her to cover up a shortage in the petty cash. She refused, and he, too, became angry. However, a few days later, someone was needed to carry thousands of dollars for deposit. Who was chosen? Why, this honest employee! Actually, her bosses respected her for her honesty. In fact, in difficult times honest Christians have found employment when others could not.

It is good to be respected, to have a clear conscience and to make life more pleasant for people around us. But there is a better reason for being honest.

The Best Reason for Honesty

The Bible tells us that God cannot lie. (Titus 1:2) Yes, Jehovah God is honest, and he expects us to be honest too. Listed among the things that God hates are "a false tongue" and "a false witness that launches forth lies." (Proverbs 6:16-19) God hates it when people tell lies to reduce their taxes,

What is the best reason for honesty?

to steal from their employers or to take improper advantage of others in any way.

Perhaps you hate these things too. If so, you will be glad to know that God can and will do something about dishonesty. In fact, he will soon take drastic action. He promises: "Evildoers themselves [including the dishonest] will be cut off, but those hoping in Jehovah are the ones that will pos-

sess the earth. And just a little while longer, and the wicked one will be no more.”—Psalm 37:9, 10.

Jehovah will not allow this earth to be dominated by dishonesty forever. He will remove those who insist on being dishonest, along with all other “evildoers.” However, those who treasure honesty and uprightness and who strive to do God’s will have a bright future. The psalmist asked: “O Jehovah, who will be a guest in your tent? Who will reside in your holy mountain?” The answer? “He who is walking faultlessly and practicing righteousness and speaking the truth in his heart. He has not slandered with his tongue. To his companion he has done nothing bad.”

—Psalm 15:1-3.

Today, it is a real challenge to be honest. But God is looking for those who will stay honest even in the face of temptation and pressure. They will fit well into the righteous “new heavens and a new earth that we are awaiting according to his promise.” (2 Peter 3:13) Today, many serve Jehovah God and try hard to keep his standards. Of course, these people are not perfect. But they believe God’s promise of a righteous “new earth.” And by the way they live now they show their sincere desire to be part of that “new earth,” or new society of people on the earth.

If you value honesty yourself, why not get to know these people? The publishers of this magazine will be happy to put you in contact with them.

The Fine Fruitage of Honesty

■ Louis wanted to obtain a life-insurance policy and a disability-insurance policy. But he had a problem. He was a diabetic. When he applied for the insurance, one of the questions he had to answer was: Do you have diabetes or a history of same? Louis answered no. The insurance company wanted him to have a physical, but on the day of the physical, Louis did not eat. Hence, when he was examined, no surplus sugar was detected in his blood. So Louis got his policies.

However, he studied the Bible, and soon his conscience bothered him. So he told his insurance agent what he had done. The agent tried to dissuade him from telling the company, but Louis insisted and wrote them a letter. Happily, the company acted graciously toward him. They continued the life-insurance policy. However, they canceled the disability insurance, and yet they returned all premiums, plus interest, that he had paid on it. Now Louis serves God with a clear conscience.

■ Children can be honest too. Seven-year-old Eugene came to the Lost and Found Depart-

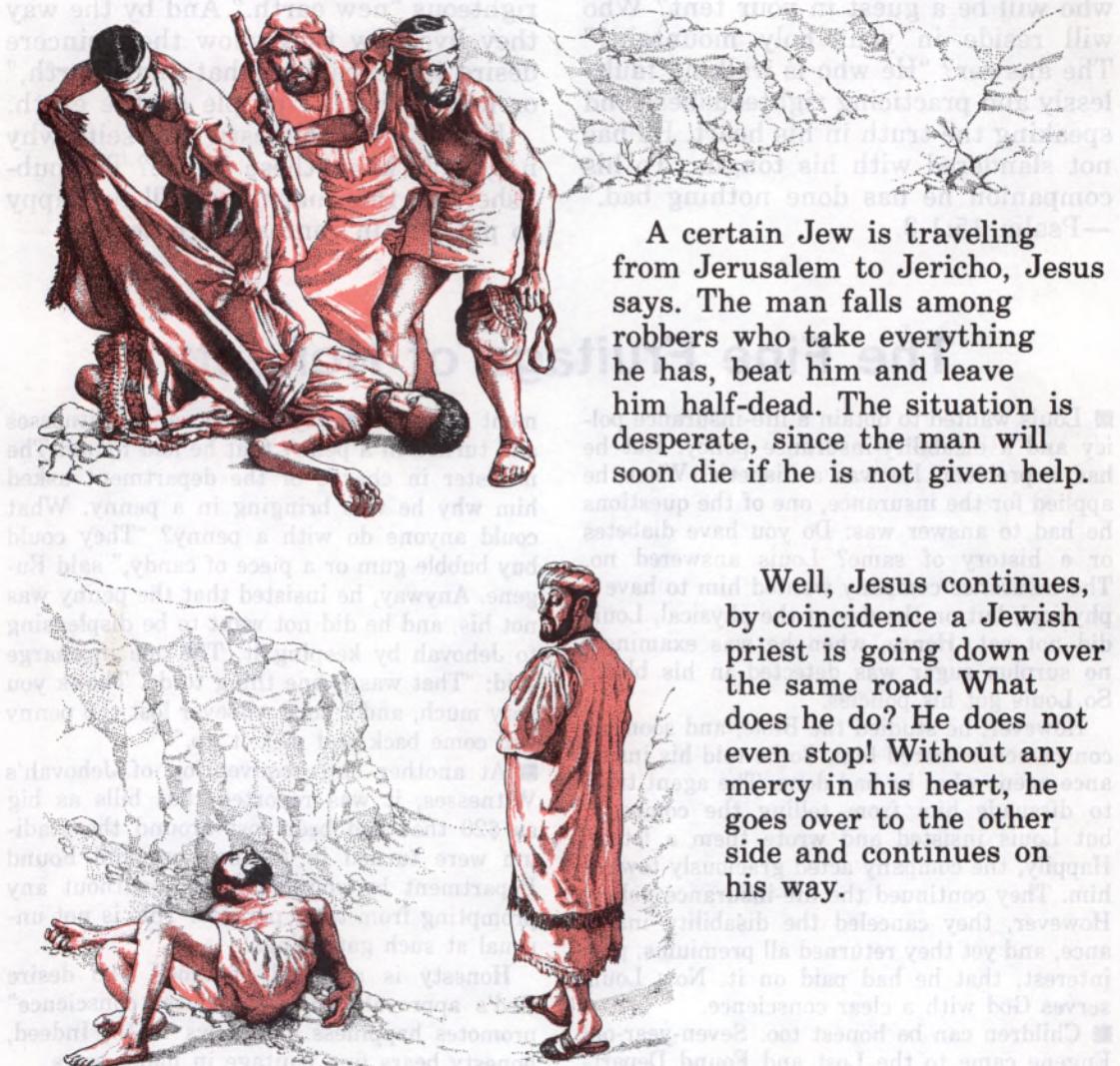
ment at an assembly of Jehovah’s Witnesses and turned in a penny that he had found. The minister in charge of the department asked him why he was bringing in a penny. What could anyone do with a penny? “They could buy bubble gum or a piece of candy,” said Eugene. Anyway, he insisted that the penny was not his, and he did not want to be displeasing to Jehovah by keeping it. The one in charge said: “That was a fine thing to do. Thank you very much, and I hope whoever lost the penny will come back and pick it up.”

■ At another large convention of Jehovah’s Witnesses, it was reported that bills as big as \$20 that had been lost around the stadium were turned in to the Lost and Found Department by young children, without any prompting from their parents. This is not unusual at such gatherings.

Honesty is required of those who desire God’s approval. And “an honest conscience” promotes happiness. (Hebrews 13:18) Indeed, honesty bears fine fruitage in many ways.

Who Really Is Your Neighbor?

One day a lawyer, a man versed in God's Law given to the Israelites, rises up and asks Jesus a test question: "Teacher, by doing what shall I inherit everlasting life?" When the answer is given, that one must love God completely and must love one's neighbor as oneself, the lawyer asks: "*Who really is my neighbor?*" Jesus answers by telling the following story:



A certain Jew is traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho, Jesus says. The man falls among robbers who take everything he has, beat him and leave him half-dead. The situation is desperate, since the man will soon die if he is not given help.

Well, Jesus continues, by coincidence a Jewish priest is going down over the same road. What does he do? He does not even stop! Without any mercy in his heart, he goes over to the other side and continues on his way.

In time a Levite, another man with privileges of service at God's temple, comes along. But he does not have any mercy in his heart either. He also goes by on the opposite side of the road and does not stop to help.

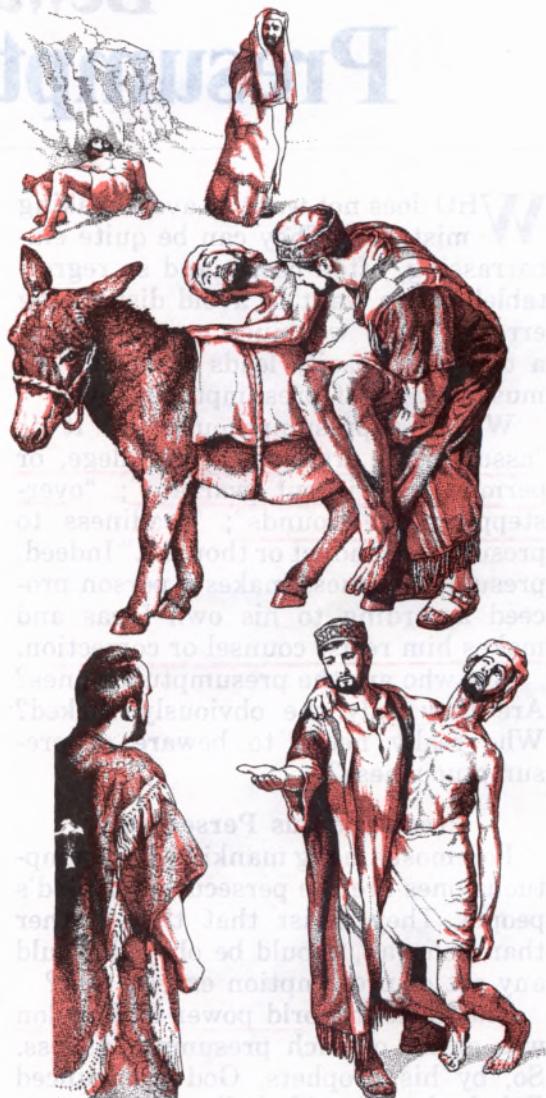
Look! Who is that helping the beaten Jew? It is a Samaritan man. This is amazing because Jews and Samaritans are enemies.

As the Bible says: "Jews have no dealings with Samaritans."—John 4:9.

Not only does the Samaritan bind up the man's wounds and put him on his own beast but he also takes him to an inn and stays for a while and takes care of him. And then, as you can see, he takes out money that amounts to two days' wages, gives it to the innkeeper and says: "Take care of him, and whatever you spend besides this, I will repay you when I come back here."

After Jesus finishes his story he turns to the lawyer and asks: "Who of these three seems to you to have made himself neighbor to the man that fell among the robbers?" The lawyer answers: "The one that acted mercifully toward him." To that Jesus says: "Go your way and be doing the same yourself."—Luke 10:25-37.

What a fine lesson all of us can learn from this! Regardless of race, color, nationality or social position, people are still our neighbors. And if we are to receive everlasting life, we must love them and do kind deeds to them.



Beware of Presumptuousness!

WHO does not want to avoid making mistakes? They can be quite embarrassing, often costly and so regrettable! Do we want to avoid distressing errors? Then we must guard against a trait that easily leads to them. We must beware of presumptuousness!

What is presumptuousness? It is "assuming a prerogative, privilege, or permission without warrant"; "overstepping due bounds"; "readiness to presume in conduct or thought." Indeed, presumptuousness makes a person proceed according to his own ideas and makes him resist counsel or correction.

But who are the presumptuous ones? Are they only the obviously wicked? Who really needs to beware of presumptuousness?

Presumptuous Persecutors

Foremost among mankind's presumptuous ones are the persecutors of God's people. They insist that they, rather than Jehovah, should be obeyed. Could any act of presumption exceed that?

The ancient world power of Babylon was guilty of such presumptuousness. So, by his prophets, God pronounced Babylon's doom. "I shall actually cause the pride of the presumptuous ones to cease, and the haughtiness of the tyrants I shall abase," declared God. And we read: "Look! I am against you, O Presumptuousness,' is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord, Jehovah of armies, 'for your day must come, the time that

I must give you attention.'"—Isaiah 13:11; Jeremiah 50:31.

In modern times, many similarly presumptuous ones have persecuted Jehovah's Witnesses. But these arrogant persecutors have not fared well. Where are such presumptuous persecutors as the Nazi Adolf Hitler and notorious Duplessis of Canada?

Warnings From the Past

Yet, others besides persecutors of God's people have fallen into the snare of presumptuousness. How evident this is from the case of Saul, the first human king over the 12 tribes of ancient Israel! When first chosen, he was a modest man. In fact, when he was to be presented to them as their king, he went into hiding. (1 Samuel 10:17-24) In time, however, this signal honor caused Saul to take himself too seriously. The result? He became guilty of one presumptuous act after another.

The first instance was during war with the Philistines. Samuel the prophet had arranged to meet Saul at a certain time in order to offer a sacrifice to Jehovah. But as the situation seemed to get desperate, and Samuel failed to come on the scene, Saul presumptuously offered the sacrifice himself. What were the consequences? Why, he was told that his presumptuous act would cost him the kingship!—1 Samuel 13:5-14.

Some time thereafter, Jehovah com-

manded Saul to avenge the dastardly attack that the Amalekites had made upon the Israelites during their wilderness journey. Saul was to wipe out Amalek, but he greedily spared the choicest of the Amalekite flock and herd, afterward claiming that these animals had been preserved for sacrificial purposes. He also spared the Amalekite king Agag. Because of this presumptuous course, Samuel told Saul: "Since you have [presumptuously] rejected the word of Jehovah, he accordingly rejects you from being king." (1 Samuel 15: 1-23) What a price to pay for presumptuousness!

Another warning example is that of presumptuous King Uzziah, or Azariah. He improperly endeavored to offer incense at Jehovah's temple. With what result? Why, for his presumptuous act, Uzziah was stricken with dreaded leprosy! Yes, "Jehovah plagued the king, and he continued to be a leper until the day of his death." (2 Kings 15:5; 2 Chronicles 26:16-23) What a warning to beware of presumptuousness!

Heed Scriptural Precepts

Persecutors of Jehovah's people, and even some individuals dedicated to God, in the past have succumbed to the snare of presumptuousness. But what about us today? The danger of becoming presumptuous still exists. Due to inherited sinful tendencies, the temptations of this wicked world and the "designs" of Satan the Devil, we all need to guard against acting presumptuously.—2 Corinthians 2:11; Psalm 51:5; 1 John 2:15-17.

Through his Word, Jehovah God lovingly warns us against presumptuousness. For instance, we read: "Has presumptuousness come? Then dishonor will come; but wisdom is with the mod-

est ones." (Proverbs 11:2) Appreciating how bad presumptuousness really is, King David wisely prayed: "From presumptuous acts hold your servant back; do not let them dominate me. In that case I shall . . . have remained innocent from much transgression." —Psalm 19:13.

Pride Fosters Presumptuousness

If we are to avoid presumptuousness, however, we must shun pride. You may recall that Saul started out being modest when chosen as Israel's king. But that is not the way he ended up. True, he acted presumptuously on various occasions. Yet, in at least one case it was pride that led him to a presumptuous and wicked act.

On one occasion Saul heard the women of Israel singing: "Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his tens of thousands." So much did this wound Saul's pride that he eyed David with suspicion and envy. In fact, Saul began pursuing David, intent on destroying him. In pride and rage, Saul even wiped out 85 priests and the men, women and children of Nob—all because one of their number had befriended David.

—1 Samuel 18:6-9; 21:1-10; 22:16-19.

Continuing in his proud, presumptuous course, Saul eventually committed suicide. (1 Samuel 31:4) What a tragic end for a once-modest man!

May we avoid the presumptuous course of Saul and Uzziah. Rather, let us heed Scriptural counsel and benefit from the warning examples found in God's Word. (Romans 15:4) Moreover, let us wisely cultivate the quality of modesty, which will be discussed in the succeeding articles. This godly trait will help us to avoid proud, sinful presumptuousness.

Christian Modesty -Proof of Wisdom

"Through the undeserved kindness given to me I tell everyone there among you not to think more of himself than it is necessary to think; but to think so as to have a sound mind, each one as God has distributed to him a measure of faith."—ROMANS 12:3.

HOW few today appreciate modesty and manifest it! This is the age of bitter rivalry and extreme competition. Races, nations, tribes, corporations and individuals of the world all want to be the best, to be on top. No one wants to be modest. This spirit has even affected the family circle, as can be seen by the rebellion of youth and the women's liberation movement.

² But the way of the world is not to be the way of genuine Christians. No, Jehovah's Witnesses recognize their obligation to follow the greatest example of modesty that this world has ever seen—Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Typical of Jesus' modesty are his remarks: "The Son cannot do a single thing of his own initiative." "Why do you call me good? Nobody is good, except one, God." (John 5:19; Luke 18:19) Yes, all who would closely follow in Jesus Christ's footsteps must manifest modesty. Moreover, all who do so will

1. What facts show that modesty is not appreciated today?

2. Why must the attitude of Jehovah's Witnesses regarding modesty not be that of the world?

not suffer loss, but they will find that the course of Christian modesty is rewarding and truly is proof of wisdom.

³ The term "modesty" may mean "limitation in size, amount, or extent." Or it can refer to that which is chaste, marked by "freedom from coarseness, indelicacy, or indecency." Then again, it may denote "an awareness of one's limitations," or "freedom from conceit or vanity."* Under divine inspiration, the apostle Paul urged fellow believers to display modesty, for he wrote: "Through the undeserved kindness given to me I tell everyone there among you not to think more of himself than it is necessary to think; but to think so as to have a sound mind, each one as God has distributed to him a measure of faith." (Romans 12:3) Yes, it is necessary to think something of ourselves. But we must not think too much of ourselves, attaching too much importance to our natural abilities or acquired advantages.

* Webster's Third New International Dictionary.

3. The term modesty generally is used in what ways?

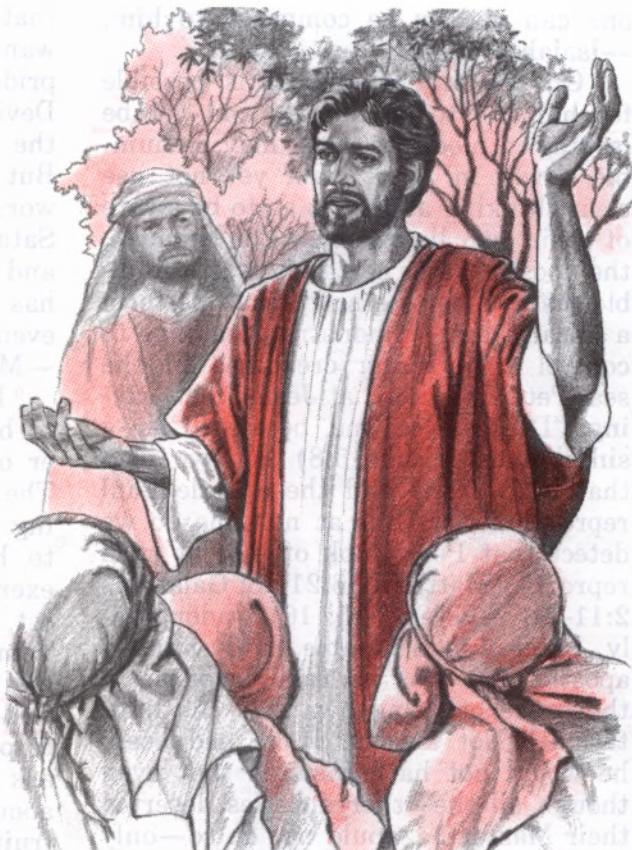
Modesty and Humility Differ

⁴ In many Bible translations, modesty is confused with humility. The Hebrew word rendered "modest" occurs only at Proverbs 11:2 and Micah 6:8. What does it mean? It can signify being modest, decent, chaste or having personal purity. However, it can also refer to being aware of one's limitations. At Micah 6:8 this Hebrew word could have either meaning, for there we are simply urged to be 'modest in walking with our God.' But that is not true of Proverbs 11:2, which reads: "Has presumptuousness come? Then dishonor will come; but wisdom is with the modest ones." Here modesty is contrasted with presumptuousness. The opposite of presumptuousness is here shown to be modesty in the sense of not presuming too much, being aware of one's limitations.

⁵ There is a difference between being humble and being modest. For example, concerning Jehovah God, the psalmist David said: "Your own humility will make me great." (Psalm 18:35) Indeed, it was because Jehovah was willing to humble, or lower, himself to notice David and deal patiently with him that he became a great king in Israel. Thus we also read regarding Jehovah: "Who is like Jehovah our God, him who is

4. (a) Where does the Hebrew word rendered "modest" occur in the Scriptures? (b) What must we conclude as to its meaning at Proverbs 11:2?

5, 6. How can the difference between humility and modesty be illustrated with regard to Jehovah God?



Jesus modestly did what his heavenly Father directed

making his dwelling on high? He is condescending to look on heaven and earth." (Psalm 113:5, 6) There is no question about it—the Creator is so highly exalted that he has to condescend to take notice of things in the heavens and upon earth.

⁶ But can we speak of Jehovah as being modest in the sense of being aware of his limitations? Of course not! How could we speak of limitations as regards God, since he is infinite in wisdom and power, absolutely flawless and perfect in justice and the very personification of love? Absolutely no

one can rightly be compared to him.
—Isaiah 40:12-31.

⁷ On the other hand, it is possible for humans to be humble and yet be lacking in modesty. They may be humble, lowly in heart, and yet not use clear thinking ability so as to be aware of their own limitations. For example, the apostle Peter certainly was a humble man. When he saw Jesus perform a miracle that demonstrated ability to control even living creatures in the sea, Peter fell down at Jesus' feet, saying: "Depart from me, because I am a sinful man." (Luke 5:8) And we read that both Jesus and the apostle Paul reproved Peter. But at no time do we detect that Peter took offense at such reproofs. (Matthew 16:21-23; Galatians 2:11-14; 2 Peter 3:15, 16) Undoubtedly, Peter was a humble, lowly-minded apostle. But was he really modest in the sense of being aware of his limitations? Not always. If he had been, he would not have insisted that even though all the other apostles deserted their Master he would not do so—only to fail so miserably, denying Jesus three times!—Mark 14:29, 30, 66-72.

Woes Caused by Lack of Modesty

⁸ Not only did a lack of modesty bring woe to the apostle Peter but it might also be said that all the woe in the world—yes, in the universe—had its origin in a lack of modesty. How so? It was because of a lack of modesty that a certain angelic creature became Satan the Devil. He failed to recognize his limitations as a created individual. Not content with the position

7. (a) Why can it be said that a human may be humble but be lacking in modesty? (b) How can this be seen in the case of the apostle Peter?
8. Why can it be said that all the trouble in the universe originated with a lack of modesty?

that Jehovah had assigned to him, he wanted to be equal to God. Later, this prideful attitude was shown when the Devil offered Jesus all the kingdoms of the world for just one act of worship. But as Jesus reminded that Tempter, worship belongs to Jehovah God only. Satan's lack of modesty, which was and is a course of presumptuousness, has resulted in dishonor to him and eventually will mean his destruction.—Matthew 4:8-10; Hebrews 2:14.

⁹ Lack of modesty likewise proved to be the undoing of Eve, "the mother of everyone living." (Genesis 3:20) The idea of being like God, of knowing good and bad for herself, appealed to her. Why? Because she failed to exercise modesty. Had she kept modest, she could, in effect, have told the Tempter: 'Why should I want to be like God? I am perfectly content with God's arrangement, for me to be helper to perfect Adam. Besides, I had better ask Adam about this, since he told me about the command not to eat of this fruit.' But no. Eve broke away from modesty, in relation to her Maker and her husband. And lack of modesty cost Eve her life and influenced her husband to take a suicidal course. So is modesty important? Yes, it is that important!—Genesis 3:1-19.

¹⁰ All of us seem to have inherited from our first parents some tendency to manifest a lack of modesty. As God said following the Flood, "the inclination of the heart of man is bad from his youth up." (Genesis 8:21) Hence, when King David was overtaken by grievous sins, he could plead with God:

9. In what respects did Eve display a lack of modesty?
10. Why do all of us find it difficult to be truly modest?



Christian modesty results in good relations with God and our fellow witnesses of Jehovah

"Look! With error I was brought forth with birth pains, and in sin my mother conceived me." (Psalm 51:5) And that is why Jehovah God could say by his prophet Jeremiah: "The heart is more treacherous than anything else and is desperate. Who can know it?"—Jeremiah 17:9.

¹¹ So much trouble in the world is due to a lack of modesty! It affects all races, nationalities, tribes and even family members. Neither the Eastern nor the Western bloc of nations is willing to recognize its own limitations. Each wants to be on top. People of one race feel superior to those of another. In fact, it is reported that strife between certain African tribes often results simply because each tribe sets out to prove its supposed superiority.

11. What conditions worldwide can be laid to a lack of modesty?

¹² What about the lack of modesty within the family circle? In many instances, both husbands and wives have caused discord by their lack of modesty. Due to their physical and economic advantages, husbands often tend to play a macho role or to act as a boss, to the great unhappiness of the family. No doubt this partially accounts for the women's liberation movement, with its charge of male chauvinism. But what about womenfolk, and wives in particular? Those lacking modesty have often reaped much unhappiness, including broken homes. (Galatians 6: 7, 8) Such women have ignored the basic Scriptural requirement that they "be in subjection to their husbands as to the Lord." (Ephesians 5:21-23, 33;

12. (a) What harm results from a lack of modesty on the part of some husbands? (b) What results from a lack of modesty on the part of many women?

1 Corinthians 11:3, 7-10) Among women of the world, there is also a glaring and widespread lack of modesty as regards chasteness. Flaunting their physical charms by the way they speak, dress and conduct themselves, these women must share the blame for the prevalence of promiscuousness, marital infidelity and broken homes.

¹³ While there are fine examples of modesty among modern youth, others show a shocking lack of it. Because of failing to display this quality, many youths are impatient with their elders or are critical of the mistakes made by those of the older generation. But, then, what wisdom do some of these youths manifest with regard to drug addiction, drunkenness, reckless driving or getting involved in an immoral life-style? If such youths were modest, they would listen to their elders and benefit from the good counsel such experienced ones can give.

Christian Modesty—Truly Wise!

¹⁴ The displaying of Christian modesty truly is the course of wisdom. First of all, it results in good relations with Jehovah. In fact, God requires that we be modest in walking with him. (Micah 6:8) Moreover, modesty is most becoming on our part when we think of the great gap between us and our all-powerful and eternal Maker. Why, to him the nations are like the film of dust on the scales and like a mere drop falling from a bucket! (Isaiah 40:15) Modesty will cause us to fear to displease Jehovah God, and that surely is "the beginning of wisdom."—Psalm 111:10.

13. What fruitage has a lack of modesty produced among youths today?
14. Why is modesty so fitting in our relationship with Jehovah God?

¹⁵ Modesty also promotes good relations with our fellow witnesses of Jehovah. It will keep a Christian brother from pushing himself forward as regards privileges of service. Modesty will keep him aware of his limitations, his lack of knowledge and experience in certain respects as compared with others. It will also make him concerned about improving his spiritual qualifications rather than with having the office of ministerial servant or elder. If he continues to make full use of every opportunity to increase in knowledge and to be of help to his fellow believers, it may well come as a surprise to him when he is recommended and appointed to a position of responsibility in the congregation. That has actually been the case in more than one instance.

¹⁶ Modesty is also the course of wisdom for the sisters in the congregation. This is true in more than the matter of chasteness, important as that is. (1 Timothy 2:9, 10; Titus 2:3-5) Being aware of her limitations and the role assigned to her in the congregation, the Christian woman who is wise will modestly control her speech. She will keep from being overly talkative and from expressing criticism of the way the appointed elders are handling matters.—Compare Jude 8, 9, 16.

¹⁷ Similarly, modesty on the part of youths is proof of wisdom. Youths endear themselves to others when they conduct themselves modestly. God's Word rightly commands that they hon-

15. What help can modesty be to a Christian brother?
16. Why is displaying modesty the course of wisdom on the part of Christian women?
- 17, 18. (a) Why should youths display modesty toward their parents? (b) What Scriptural example is here given to show that it is wise to heed the counsel of older people?

or their father and mother and obey them in "everything." (Colossians 3:20; Ephesians 6:1-3) It takes modesty to do that and not to think that youths are wiser than their parents. And do you not owe your parents a debt of gratitude? They brought you into the world. From that time until the present, your parents have provided you with food, clothing, shelter, education, recreation and spiritual instruction. Therefore, would not respect itself move you to manifest modesty toward them?

¹⁸ Modestly taking your parents into your confidence and accepting their counsel is the course of wisdom. By reason of their experience, they surely have more wisdom than you do. The world is filled with turmoil, not because of a lack of knowledge but due to a lack of sound wisdom. "They have rejected the very word of Jehovah, and what wisdom do they have?" (Jeremiah 8:9) Even in such a personal matter as picking your partner for life, you will be wise if you modestly give due regard to your parents' judgment, since they love you and have your best interest at heart. They can give you far better advice than can your peers. True, it may not be as flattering, but it will be better for you. The Bible reveals that King Rehoboam of ancient Israel lost most of his kingdom because of his lack of modesty. He rejected the counsel of the older men who had been his father's counselors and chose to follow the flattering counsel of his peers, the young men that had grown up with him. They were as inexperienced and shortsighted as he himself was.
—1 Kings 12:1-24.

¹⁹ Christian modesty will also serve

19. How can modesty serve us well in our witnessing activity?

us well when we are witnessing about Jehovah God's name and Kingdom, whether formally or informally. If we were to speak with great self-assurance, we might impress some listeners but repel many others. At all times, we should call attention to Jehovah God and his Word, not to ourselves. Very much to the point here is this advice: "Sanctify the Christ as Lord in your hearts, always ready to make a defense before everyone that demands of you a reason for the hope in you, but doing so together with a mild temper and deep respect." (1 Peter 3:15) Modesty will make it easier to display a mild temper and to show deep respect.

²⁰ Clearly, from the foregoing we can see what great harm has come to mankind due to a lack of modesty. We have also seen that modesty unquestionably is the course of wisdom. These points should help us to cultivate modesty. But what further aid can we find in cultivating Christian modesty?

20. (a) So far, what have we learned about modesty and the lack of it? (b) What question remains?

Can You Recall?

- Why must Jehovah's Witnesses not have the world's attitude toward modesty?
- How might a person be humble but not modest?
- Why do all of us find it difficult to be truly modest?
- Why is it so appropriate that we be modest in our relationship with Jehovah?
- How can modesty help us in our witnessing work?

Cultivating Christian Modesty

MODESTY is a virtue that once was appreciated by the wise men of this world. Thus we are told: "A modest person seldom fails to gain the good will of those he converses with, because nobody envies a man who does not appear to be pleased with himself." And it has been said: "Modesty is a shining light; it prepares the mind to receive knowledge, and the heart for truth." A person lacking modesty is not likely to have an open mind.

² Then again, some men noted for their discoveries have displayed modesty. Thus Albert Einstein once stated that "a spirit is manifest in the laws of the Universe—a spirit vastly superior to that of man, and one in the face of which we with our modest powers must feel humble." And Sir Isaac Newton, considered by many to be the foremost scientist of all time, once remarked: "If I have seen farther than others, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants." Evidently of a similar frame of mind are some surgeons who have operated on Jehovah's Witnesses. After performing very difficult operations successfully without blood transfusions, they have told their Witness patients that the credit goes to God, not to the surgeons themselves.

1. What expressions show that some men of the world have appreciated the value of modesty?
2. How have certain noted men displayed modesty?

Examples of Modesty

³ What will aid us in cultivating the very desirable, yes, very necessary quality of modesty? Obviously, applying all that has been said in the two previous articles on presumptuousness and modesty will help us to cultivate modesty. Another aid in cultivating modesty is to consider how mightily Jehovah used his modest servants. How could God use men who sought praise and called attention to themselves instead of to their Maker! Just once Moses did this—under great stress and provocation, it is true. Yet, how he paid for that! But that Moses was truly modest can be seen by his initial diffidence about going to Pharaoh. Moreover, the Scriptures say that "Moses was by far the meekest of all the men who were upon the surface of the ground."—Numbers 12:3; Exodus 4:10-17.

⁴ Another fine example of modesty was young Elihu. He patiently waited until his elders, Job and his three companions, had their say before he spoke. Elihu did not have an air of superiority but directed all praise to his Maker. (Job 32:4-11, 21, 22; 36:9) Joseph, the son of the patriarch Jacob, also showed due modesty when brought before mighty Pharaoh and asked if he could interpret that mon-

3. (a) What will help us to cultivate modesty?
- (b) What can be said about Moses and modesty?
4. How did Elihu and Joseph show due modesty?

arch's dream. Joseph gave Jehovah the credit for interpreting dreams.—Genesis 40:8; compare Daniel 2:26-30.

⁵ Consider, too, the case of Gideon. When receiving his commission, he modestly said that his clan was the least in Manasseh and he himself was the smallest in his father's house. So Gideon was just the one for Jehovah to use in vanquishing the Midianites because God was determined to get the credit for the victory. Only a truly modest man could have served properly in that situation.—Judges 6:14-16; 7:2-7.

⁶ Young Solomon, when first made king, likewise displayed modesty. Upon being asked by God in a dream what

5. Why was Gideon's modesty important to Jehovah God?

6. (a) Why was Jehovah pleased with young King Solomon's request? (b) What other young servant of Jehovah manifested fitting modesty, and in what regard? (c) How may the attitude of young Elihu, Solomon and Jeremiah affect relatively youthful or less experienced witnesses of Jehovah?

⁷ Noteworthy, too, was the modesty of the apostle Paul. Although he had

he would like to have, Solomon modestly replied: "I am but a little boy. . . . You must give to your servant an obedient heart to judge your people, to discern between good and bad; for who is able to judge this difficult people of yours?" Jehovah was so well pleased with Solomon's modesty that He gave him not only wisdom but also great riches and glory. (1 Kings 3:4-14) Due to Solomon's modesty, Jehovah made him the wisest of all human rulers. Jeremiah displayed similar modesty in view of his youthfulness when called to be Jehovah's prophet. (Jeremiah 1:6-8) Are you a comparatively young or inexperienced witness of Jehovah? If so, surely you will prove yourself wise if you, like young Elihu, Solomon and Jeremiah, display due modesty.

⁷ Noteworthy, too, was the modesty of the apostle Paul. Although he had

7. How do Paul's words at 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 provide a fine example of modesty for Kingdom proclaimers?



Elihu modestly avoided an air of superiority, directing all praise to Jehovah

Regularly feeding on God's Word and 'praying incessantly' will help us to cultivate modesty



been a highly educated Pharisee and later was used mightily by Jehovah God, Paul did not flaunt his advantages. As he himself said: "So 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. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and with much trembling; and my speech and what I preached were not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of spirit and power, that your faith might be, not in men's wisdom, but in God's power." (1 Corinthians 2:1-5) Some of Jehovah's Witnesses have come from among the highly educated. But, like Paul, they display modesty in declaring the good news, wisely following the apostle's fine example.

⁸ The greatest and finest example of modesty, of course, is none other than Jesus Christ. What a contrast there is

between the Son of God and the one who became Satan the Devil! Never has Christ immodestly sought equality with Jehovah God. (Matthew 4:8-10; Philippians 2:5-8) Rather, Jesus is completely content to be his Father's assistant and spokesman. (Proverbs 8:30; John 1:1) While on earth he repeatedly spoke of his subordination to God. (John 5:19, 30; 7:28; 8:28, 42) He disclaimed personal credit, directing attention to Jehovah. (Mark 10:18) And at the time of Jesus' greatest testing, his attitude was: "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from me. Yet, not as I will, but as you will." (Matthew 26:39) Unquestionably, Jesus set us a fine example in modesty. Surely, then, all of God's spirit creatures and all humans should be modest.

Modesty Makes Sense

⁹ For us to be modest is logical; it makes sense. To begin with, are we not all imperfect? Who can deny that!

9. According to 1 Corinthians 4:6, 7, why does modesty on the part of God's servants make sense?

8. How did Jesus provide the finest and greatest example of modesty?

(1 Kings 8:46) All of us make mistakes. Our experience is limited and our knowledge is by no means infinite. More than that, we have received everything we have. Thus the apostle Paul urged fellow believers not to go beyond the things written "in order," as he put it, "that you may not be puffed up individually in favor of the one against the other. For who makes you to differ from another? Indeed, what do you have that you did not receive? If, now, you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as though you did not receive it?" (1 Corinthians 4:6, 7) Obviously, so much of what we are depends on our genetic inheritance, our environment and especially on God's providence.

¹⁰ Moreover, is it not a fact that regardless of what success we might have in our sacred service, everything depends on Jehovah's blessing? To illustrate: No matter how hard a farmer may work, the weather is a very important factor in the growth of crops. And the psalmist well observed: "Unless Jehovah himself builds the house, it is to no avail that its builders have worked hard on it. Unless Jehovah himself guards the city, it is to no avail that the guard has kept awake." Making the same point regarding the work of Christian ministers, the apostle Paul wrote: "I planted, Apollos watered, but God kept making it grow; so that neither is he that plants anything nor is he that waters, but God who makes it grow." (Psalm 127:1; 1 Corinthians 3:6, 7) Yes, if we reason on the matter, we have to agree that

10. On what does success in sacred service depend, and how should awareness of that fact affect us?

modesty is becoming to all of us, regardless of our abilities, attainments or possessions.

Aids in Cultivating Modesty

¹¹ Among the qualities that will help us to be modest is love, unselfish love. If we appreciate all that Jehovah God has done, is doing and will yet do for us, we will truly love him with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. (Mark 12:30) Then we will not boast as regards ourselves. After all, boastfulness is the opposite of modesty. Rather, we will always speak and act with due modesty so as to draw attention not to ourselves but to Jehovah God, letting all glory and honor go to him. Then we will be heeding the counsel: "Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom nor the valiant of his valour; let not the rich man boast of his riches; but if any man would boast, let him boast of this, that he understands and knows me. For I am [Jehovah], I show unfailing love, I do justice and right upon the earth; for on these I have set my heart. This is the very word of [Jehovah]."—Jeremiah 9:23, 24, *The New English Bible*.

¹² Cultivating a close relationship with Jehovah will also help us to be modest at all times. We are expected to be modest in walking with our God. (Micah 6:8) To the extent that the Creator, his greatness, his majesty and his attributes are real to us, to that extent we will be deporting ourselves with due modesty. We want to have the same mental attitude as that of Moses, who "continued steadfast as seeing the

11. How will love for Jehovah God help us to be modest?

12. How can a good relationship with God help us to be modest?

One who is invisible." (Hebrews 11:27) It is as though we were little children taking hold of our heavenly Father's hand. Our feeding regularly on Jehovah's Word and 'persevering in prayer,' yes, 'praying incessantly,' will help us to have this fine intimate relationship with God.—Romans 12:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

¹³ Love and appreciation for all that our Master, Jesus Christ, has done for us and knowing what it means to follow his steps closely will also help us to be modest. What a fine, noble, unselfish, perfect example Jesus set for us! To the extent that we take seriously our obligation to follow his footsteps closely, we will be helped to be modest. How so? Because we will appreciate how far short we come from fully imitating him. We may feel pleased with ourselves when we compare ourselves with some others. But do we have a basis for feeling so pleased alongside Jesus Christ? Instead, we should feel as did the apostle Paul—painfully aware of the fact that we fail to do what we really want to and so often do that which we really wish not to do. No Christian who is keenly aware of how far short he comes of being an imitator of Jesus Christ will feel like boasting in himself.—Romans 7:15-25.

¹⁴ Likewise, love for our fellow witnesses of Jehovah and for members of our own family will help us to be modest. As a Kingdom song puts it: "Love has eyes to see the good. Love builds up the brotherhood." Yes, love will cause us to appreciate the good qualities in others. But how can this

help us to be modest? Well, a lack of modesty offends others, makes them uncomfortable. Since we do not want to offend those we love, genuine brotherly love will make us modest. Lack of modesty stirs up competition, rivalry, or causes others to feel inferior to us. But love "does not brag, does not get puffed up." Rather, it is modest.—1 Corinthians 13:4.

¹⁵ Self-control, a fruit of God's holy spirit, is also helpful to us in cultivating modesty. (Galatians 5:22, 23) Is there really a relationship between the two? Indeed there is. Often an individual is inclined to say or do the self-serving or self-flattering thing, sometimes simply because of acting on impulse. As soon as a person has said or done this, he may realize the mistake he has made. This is because the human heart is devious, treacherous, deceitful. (Jeremiah 17:9, *The Jerusalem Bible; NE*) But exercising self-control, pausing, thinking, reflecting on just how our words or actions will affect others, will help us to show fitting modesty. For example, without sufficient thought, we might be prone to take the choicest or largest piece of meat, cake or fruit when we are being served or handed a dish at a dinner. But self-control and thoughtfulness will enable us to resist that impulse. The same applies when it comes to immodestly taking the best seat at a banquet. As Jesus illustrated, we may be asked to move to a less significant place. However, a little thinking and modesty will keep us from making an embarrassing mistake along these lines.—Luke 14:8-11.

¹⁶ Another fruit of the spirit that

13. In what way can our desire to imitate Jesus Christ help us to be modest?

14. Why can brotherly love help us to be modest?

15. How can self-control help us to be modest?

16. Why can faith in Jehovah help us to be modest?

will aid us in cultivating modesty is faith in Jehovah, resulting from a good relationship with him. Fallen human nature is prone to arouse fear of losing out on the good things of life, be they material, intellectual, emotional or spiritual. But faith in Jehovah will keep us from pushing forward presumptuously or immodestly. Rather, we will leave matters in Jehovah's hands. If we are modest, we will be able to wait until God sets matters right or sees to it that we receive recognition or advancement. Before David became king, he displayed this modesty. He could have taken matters into his own hands, for he had been anointed as king. David could have become Israel's ruler at once by slaying King Saul, but no, David modestly waited for Jehovah to give him the kingship, and this Jehovah did, in His own due time.

—1 Samuel 24:2-6; 26:10, 11.

¹⁷ Another aid to modesty is empathy, which means being able to put oneself in the shoes of others, as it were. For instance, a lack of modesty may cause a congregation elder repeatedly to run overtime in handling his assignments on congregation meetings. But if he has empathy, he will be able to put himself in the shoes of his fellow elders who are concerned about having sufficient time for their parts on the program. The modest elder will also think of his spiritual brothers and sisters, who do not appreciate it when a meeting runs overtime for no good reason. In fact, empathy will cause a person to be modest in all relationships, not just in the Christian congregation. Empathy caused the apostle Paul to

17. In what ways can empathy help us to be modest?

become 'as a Jew to the Jews, as though under law to those under law, as weak to the weak,' and so forth—all for the sake of the good news. That meant being modest, showing his listeners that he did not think himself to be any better than they were.—1 Corinthians 9:19-23.

¹⁸ Truly, Christian modesty has much to recommend it. What havoc has been caused throughout history due to a lack of modesty! Displaying modesty really makes sense to the Christian. It results in good relations with God, our fellow witnesses of Jehovah, our own family and others. Modesty will even help us personally, for it will make us content and keep us from becoming frustrated. Wisely, God's Word helps us greatly to be modest. May we therefore give proof of real wisdom by cultivating and displaying Christian modesty.

18. What can be said in favor of Christian modesty?

How Would You Answer?

- How have some youthful persons of Bible record displayed modesty?
- How did Jesus Christ furnish the greatest and finest example of modesty?
- In what ways can love for Jehovah and a good relationship with him help us to cultivate modesty?
- How can our desire to imitate Jesus Christ help us to manifest modesty?
- Why can brotherly love help us to be modest as Jehovah's worshipers?

Insight on the News

'Non-Sexist' Bible

"For God so loved the world that God gave God's only Child, that whoever believes in that Child should not perish, but have eternal life." That translation may sound odd to you. But it is the way John 3:16 is rendered in a new 192-page translation of Bible readings, *The Inclusive Language Lectionary*, released by the National Council of Churches.

"This lectionary tries to speak of God as beyond differentiations of sex," says its introduction. So that its readers are "not overwhelmed by male metaphors," the translation uses expressions such as "God my Father and Mother" for "Father," "Child" for "Son," "Sovereign One" for "Lord," and so forth. Thus, Jesus' prayer on the night of his arrest begins: "God my Mother and Father, the hour has come; glorify your Child that your Child may glorify you."

—John 17:1.

Among those voicing disapproval of the translation is Princeton Theological Seminary professor Bruce Metzger, who said: "To explain that God transcends differences of gender is the work of the religious educator, not the Bible translator." What the new lectionary has done is "tantamount to rewriting the Bible," he added. Apparently, in its effort to ally itself with the women's liberation movement (and to uphold the ordination of women), the National Council of Churches has seen fit to alter God's Word.

The Pharisees and scribes of Jesus' day had their own ideas

and causes to espouse, and in so doing they rendered God's Word void. Jesus said of them, "You have made the word of God invalid because of your tradition." Modern-day "Pharisees" are trying to do something similar. But their worship is no more acceptable to God than was that of the ancient Pharisees concerning whom Jesus added: "It is in vain that they keep worshiping [God], because they teach commands of men as doctrines."

—Matthew 15:6, 9.

In a Mess

Twelve years after publishing the foreboding report "The Limits to Growth," what does the prestigious Club of Rome have to say about the future? "Since then, every indicator in the world has worsened except for one: human awareness," says its president, Aurelio Peccei. "People now understand that we are in a mess."

Surely there are many things to make people more aware that "we are in a mess." Says Mr. Peccei: "People should know that the situation is very serious looked at from any angle—environment, peace and war, unemployment, socially and in the sense of values." Though he feels that "we have all the means to put it straight," he worries that people put too much confidence in what the Club says. "They think that we are wiser than we are, more influential than we are, know more things than we actually do."

But there is One in whom we can place our confidence. Who is this? "The One telling from the beginning the finale, and from long ago the things that have

not been done; the One saying, 'My own counsel will stand, and everything that is my delight I shall do.'" Yes, this One, Jehovah God, has purposed a marvelous future for mankind. "Look!" he says, "I am making all things new."—Isaiah 46:10; Revelation 21:5.

Family Violence

"Very likely, the actual number of children abused and neglected annually in the U.S. is at least 1,000,000," says a report by the National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect. *The New York Times* reports that in the United States two to six million wives are beaten and at least half a million elderly people are mistreated by family members; violent family disputes reportedly account for "20 percent of all police deaths on duty and 40 percent of injuries."

Figures like these have become commonplace, so much so that many people cannot comprehend what they mean. For one thing, such statistics show that the most fundamental of human relationships—the family—is disintegrating. Additionally, they fulfill the Bible's unerring prophecy that "men will be lovers of themselves, . . . disobedient to parents, . . . having no natural affection, not open to any agreement, . . . without self-control, fierce." The rampant violence in the family and elsewhere, along with other critical problems around the world, proves that we are living in "the last days" when "critical times hard to deal with" are indeed here.—2 Timothy 3:1-3.



THE Kingdom unity of Jehovah's Witnesses—how it contrasts with the disunity of this old world! Although Jehovah's people are over 2,650,000 strong in more than 200 lands, they are united in sacred service to God under the Fine Shepherd, Jesus Christ. True, the Witnesses speak many tongues. But they have in common the "pure language" that enables them to serve Jehovah God unitedly "shoulder to shoulder."—Zephaniah 3:9.

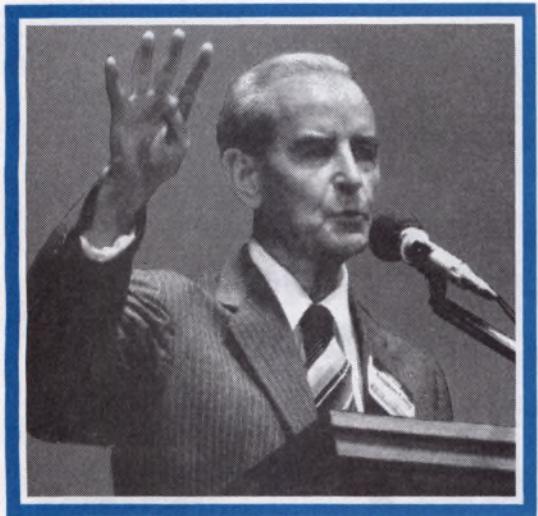
Bearing eloquent testimony to the oneness of Jehovah's people were the four-day "Kingdom Unity" District Conventions. At these, the theme of Kingdom unity was highlighted in at least four ways: (1) A number of talks developed the theme of Kingdom unity; (2) certain program features, such as the baptism talk and the Bible dramas, stressed unity; (3) reports by missionaries underscored this theme; and (4) most conventions were linked with key cities by telephone hookups for some talks given by members of the Governing Body of Jehovah's Wit-

nesses. For instance, during July 7-10, 1983, by these hookups 48 conventions were tied together in the contiguous United States, Canada, Bermuda and Hawaii—a superb display of Kingdom unity!

Never before has the Watch Tower Society received such an avalanche of letters regarding a convention. Both young and old have found the program heartwarming and faith strengthening and have made such comments as these: "The counsel was plain and clear, just what was needed." 'A banquet of well-oiled dishes.' "Thank you for encouraging us to draw close to our heavenly Father and be united in pure worship." More often than ever before, conventioners could be heard to exclaim: 'The best yet!'

Fellow Workers for the Kingdom of God

From the first day, bearing the above theme, it was evident that appreciative remarks truly were warranted. During the opening talk, all those assembled were urged to listen attentively, get



F. W. Franz, president of the Watch Tower Society, addressing a convention audience

the sense of what they heard and apply the counsel. The chairman's talk, "We Are Guests of Jehovah, the God of Unity," highlighted the need to show deep appreciation for all the spiritual food provided at the convention. To be God's guests we must, among other things, keep our word and never say or do anything that would reflect unfavorably on our fellow believers. (Psalm 15) During the feature "Some Longtime Guests Testify," how thrilling it was to hear from some who had been Jehovah's 'guests' for 60 years or more! They surely could testify that God blesses and sustains his people.

Next, Jehovah's servants were urged to "Keep On Preaching the Kingdom." Among the compelling reasons are these: Kingdom-preaching is part of the "sign" Jesus gave, people are being judged on the basis of their response to the message, and unless we keep preaching we ourselves will lose sight of the Kingdom issue. (Matthew

24:3, 14) A later series of demonstrations showed how we can effectively deal with questions often encountered in the ministry. Then it was a pleasant surprise to receive *Kingdom News* No. 32, entitled "A United, Happy Family. What Is the Key?" Conventioners eagerly obtained supplies, used by many in the field service that very afternoon.

Particularly outstanding was the announcement made during the talk "Music That Praises Jehovah." The Society is preparing a new songbook, to be ready in the near future! Especially was this appreciated because 17 years had passed since Jehovah's Witnesses received their last one. Guitar notations will appear with the 225 songs in the new book, and it will be published in a large as well as a small edition. Three groups of melodies were played as samples, and all music heard before each morning and afternoon session will be found in the new songbook.

Fitly United in the Same Line of Thought

The second convention day had that theme and focused attention on our congregational responsibilities and family obligations. The talk "Unitedly Imitating Devoted Overseers" emphasized the need to imitate the strong faith, unselfish love and burning zeal manifested by fine elders. (2 Thessalonians 3:7-9) In another talk ministerial servants were impressed with the fact that they must meet exacting requirements. Congregations function more smoothly when these men serve humbly in a fine manner, giving all credit to Jehovah God.

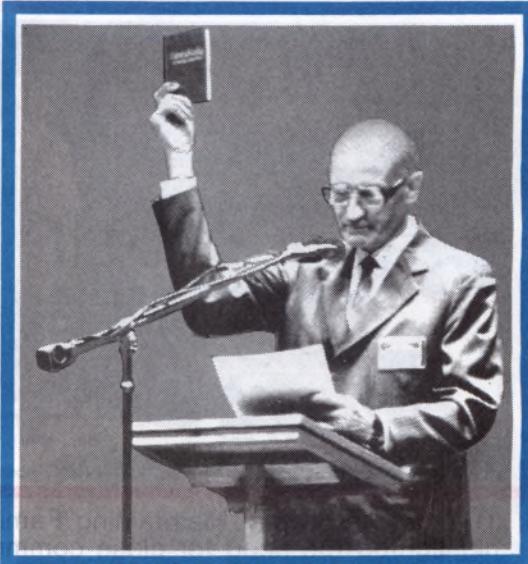
The talk "Our Supportive Role in the Congregation" made it evident that the

spirit of the congregation is what we make it. So how can we be supportive? Why, by such actions as upholding the elders' judicial actions, maintaining the Kingdom Hall and sharing fully in the witnessing work! As an aid in our ministry, how well we will be able to use the new release! Yes, indeed, *Good News for All Nations*, a booklet containing a witness in 59 languages, will be a boon to our Kingdom-preaching work.

Then came the drama "Maintaining Family Unity." It touched the hearts of all, bringing forth tears in many cases. How effectively this drama showed the need for close communication between parents and their children! Were we not impressed with the need for parents to understand how their children think and feel about matters?

What fine admonition there was in the talk "Encourage One Another as the Day Draws Near"! Let us never yield to the Devil, who tries to discourage us so that we will quit. All of us should work at encouraging one another. We can impart joy and comfort by making thoughtful, encouraging comments, either in person, by telephone or through letters.

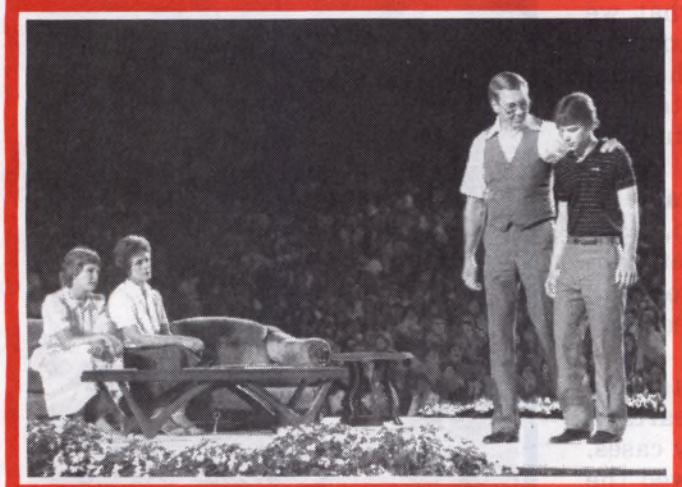
In these days, the family is being attacked by the Devil and his world. Very helpful, then, were three talks on the family. The first pointed out that husbands, wives and children should study together, sit together at the Kingdom Hall and share in the field ministry together. In the second talk, parents were impressed with the need for a home atmosphere of faith and love. Yes, and in their children's early life, godly parents should begin setting before them such fine goals as Bethel and missionary service. In the third talk, "Youths, Uphold Christian Principles



The new study aid *United in Worship of the Only True God* being released by M. G. Henschel of the Governing Body

in School," our young people were encouraged to let others know that they are Jehovah's Witnesses and upholders of Bible principles. It was made clear that worldly religious holidays are not for Christian youths, nor are time-consuming extracurricular activities.

The talk "How Jehovah Has Kept Us United" stressed the role that ever-increasing spiritual light has played in unifying Jehovah's people. In most lands two older brothers were interviewed. They were able to point to ways that Jehovah has safeguarded his people in the face of persecution and has kept them spiritually clean and united through the years. It may be added that in the United States and Canada this part of the program featured a new provision, the Society Kingdom Hall Fund. At the end of this talk a resolution was presented and enthusias-



The moving drama "Maintaining Family Unity" highlighted the need for close communication between parents and their children

tically adopted. In this "Declaration of Unity," Jehovah's Witnesses resolved to remain united, maintain fine conduct and keep making known the good news of God's Kingdom.

The keynote address, "Kingdom Unity a Reality Today," contrasted the disunity of Satan's world with the grand unity of Jehovah's people. At the conclusion of this talk, the beautiful brochure *School and Jehovah's Witnesses* was released. Containing a thorough discussion of questions that may arise in school because we are Witnesses, it promises to be a great aid and blessing.

The closing talk of the day minced no words in dealing with a trap in which some of God's people have let themselves be caught. This talk, entitled "Beware of Greediness in a Materialistic World," spelled out the dangers of greed and showed that some individuals have been disfellowshipped for dishonesty that has brought financial harm to others.

Observing the Oneness of the Spirit

This was the theme for the third day. One way to observe the oneness of the spirit is by acting in harmony with the talk "Carry On Prayer for One Another." For instance, we can pray that those directing the work may be granted wisdom and that God's spirit will uphold our persecuted brothers and sisters. Are we not drawn into greater unity by praying for one another and by realizing that fellow believers pray for us?

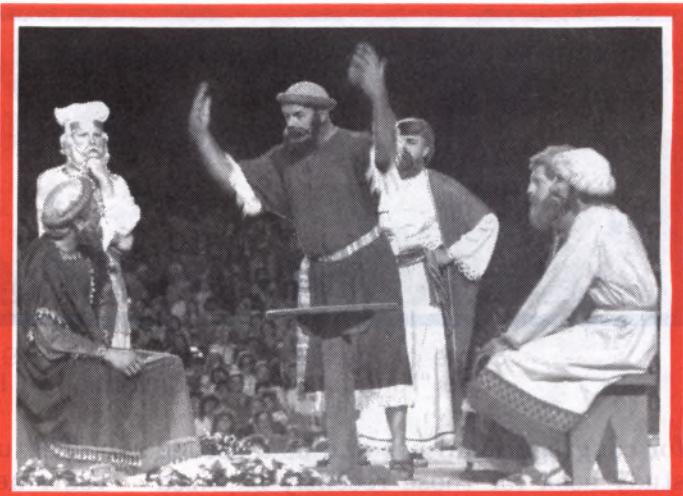
Searching questions were asked in the talk "Are You Building Your Future With God's Organization?" It was made very clear that this world has no future. Indeed, the best way to build for the future is by full-time ministerial activity, as it helps to equip us well for service in the new system of things. Naturally, looking to the future also involves "Setting and Reaching Proper Goals." In this talk it was shown that we can fittingly set short-range goals involving study, participation in meetings, field service, and so forth. Of course, a long-range goal for which to strive is everlasting life. The heartwarming baptism talk that concluded the morning session had special meaning for those who had reached the goal of dedication to Jehovah God.

"Are You Tolerating Secret Faults?" How this talk made us think! It forcefully showed that whether we are observed by humans or not, God sees us and rewards faithfulness. Particularly dealt with were the secret faults of

masturbation, excessive use of alcohol and yielding to pressure in the matter of blood transfusion on being assured that this sin would be kept secret. But all such tolerating of secret faults results in a bad conscience and Jehovah's disfavor.

"How Different Are We From the World?" was a hard-hitting talk that elicited many favorable comments. Jehovah's Witnesses definitely must differ from the world, for it is under the control of Satan and the demons! But what are some ways in which we must be different? Why, in our view of worldly education and of making a lot of money, in our choice of recreation and in the way we groom ourselves! Significant, indeed, is the disciple James' warning that our merely *wanting* to be friends of the world makes us enemies of God.—James 4:4.

Another highlight was "Gilead School—Its Accomplishments (1943-1983)." This talk, marking Gilead's 40th anniversary, revealed that the majority of the school's more than 6,000 stu-



Opposers cannot stop the activities of Jehovah's people, as shown in the drama "Unitedly Getting God's Work Done Despite Opposition"

dents have been sent abroad to over a hundred lands. Such missionaries were the first Witnesses to preach the Kingdom message in some of these countries. It was most enjoyable to hear the experiences of missionaries, proving that this service protects one, promotes love of people and is truly satisfying.

One talk sent over the telephone hookup was "The Fine Shepherd and His Two Folds." It clarified the point that John 10:1-6 refers to the Law covenant fold, whereas John 10:7-16 pertains to the new covenant fold. Particularly since 1935 have the "other sheep" been joyfully serving with those in the new covenant fold as one flock under the "fine shepherd," Jesus Christ.

Another hookup talk was "United in Worship of the Only True God." During this part of the program, conventioners were overjoyed at the release of a book bearing the same title. Prepared chiefly

In Our Next Issue

- The Trinity—Should You Believe It?
- United Worshipers of the Only True God
- Do You Meditate or Just Daydream?



Some of the 52 missionaries from 19 lands present for the "Kingdom Unity" convention at London, England

for congregational use and as a second study book for those recently baptized or approaching baptism, it deals with such unifying factors as God's Word, "the faithful and discreet slave," and the united worship of Jehovah.—Matthew 24:45-47.

Glorifying God With One Accord

How well this fourth-day theme suited the objective of the "Kingdom Unity" District Convention! Thought-provoking, indeed, was the talk "The Challenge of Maturity—Are You Meeting It?" Clearly, it showed that if we are mature we will be active in teaching others and will diligently apply the full range of Bible truth in our life. Highly appreciated, too, was the talk "Blessings of Kingdom Unity Foretold." This consideration of Isaiah chapter 32 was followed by the release of *Kingdom Melodies* No. 4, a cassette consisting solely of some delightful music that will appear in the new songbook.

The unity theme continued as conventioners enjoyed the Bible drama "Unitedly Getting God's Work Done Despite Opposition." In spite of intense opposition, Nehemiah and fellow Jews courageously rebuilt Jerusalem's walls. Similarly, opposers have not succeeded in stopping the work of Jehovah's Witnesses in our time.

The public talk "Who Are United in This Strife-Torn World?" left no doubt that Jehovah's Witnesses alone are united today. Replete with pertinent scriptures, striking quotations and sound argumentation, this con-

THEY ASSEMBLED IN KINGDOM UNITY

	Total Attendance	Number Baptized
North America	1,247,617	12,092
Europe	709,765	10,620
Far East	246,358	4,664

These figures, though not fully complete, indicate that vast throngs benefited from the "Kingdom Unity" conventions

vincing presentation doubtless was another reason why many felt that this was the best convention yet.

Very warm counsel followed as Jehovah's people were urged to "Have Intense Love for One Another"—something indispensable if we individually are to make it into the New Order. Moreover, Kingdom unity must prevail as emphasized in the final talk, "In Unison Keep Crying Out Joyfully."

Fruitage of Kingdom Unity

Doubtless you realize why so many consider the "Kingdom Unity" convention the best yet. But just how effective was the program?

Well, one youth had made plans to go to a university, but he changed his mind after hearing the talk about building your future with Jehovah's organization. The young man now in-

tends to make full-time preaching as a pioneer his career.

Two Christian elders said that this convention program gave them the impetus needed to make the final decision to sell their homes and businesses and make themselves available for greater privileges of service. And one elderly overseer has found greater joy in life because he now is more alert to seize opportunities to offer encouragement.

This rewarding convention has truly furthered our understanding and appreciation of Kingdom unity. Such unity was manifested by the activities of Jehovah's people during the four days of happy assembly. Now, may all of us give convincing evidence that we are unified in this divided and dying world. With one accord, may all of Jehovah's loyal witnesses continue to glorify the incomparable God of Kingdom unity.

Questions From Readers

- Is there any Scriptural reason why Jehovah's Witnesses should not accept blood substitutes or "artificial blood"?

It is well known that for religious reasons Jehovah's Witnesses do not accept blood transfusions. Since Noah's time true worshipers have refused to eat blood. (Genesis 9:3, 4) Blood removed from a creature was to be disposed of; it was not to be stored. (Deuteronomy 12:22-25) Christians are commanded to 'abstain from blood.' So Jehovah's Witnesses do not accept transfusions of donor blood; nor do they permit their own blood to be withdrawn, stored and later

transfused back into their veins.—Acts 15:28, 29.

However, Jehovah's Witnesses have no religious objection to replacing lost blood with nonblood solutions. Some of these more commonly used are saline solution, Ringer's lactate, dextran and Hespan.

Doctors recognize that such plasma-volume expanders have advantages, a major one being that these do not expose the patient to the numerous diseases

and other risks of blood transfusions. Furthermore, evidence shows that most patients can accommodate a much lower blood count than once was thought possible.

In recent years there has been experimentation with a fluorinated blood substitute (so-called artificial blood) that seems to be able to transport oxygen to body cells. There is a calculated risk in using this until such time as it has been fully tested. But it is not made from blood and so its use would not conflict with a Christian's Bible-trained conscience.

