

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

DECEMBER 1990

Vol. 33, No. 12

FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Meetings for Field Service

DECEMBER 3-9

Topic for Conversation

1. Review introduction and scriptures.
2. How will you introduce the book *Mankind's Search for God*?

DECEMBER 10-16

When offering *Mankind's Search for God*, how would you interest

1. A person of the Jewish religion?
2. Someone of another religion?

DECEMBER 17-23

How do you respond to

1. Holiday greetings?
2. Questions about why we do not celebrate Christmas?

DECEMBER 24-30

During the holidays

1. How can we show respect and consideration for householders?
2. What introduction will you use?

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?*:

- December 3: Page 95, par. 19,
to page 105, par. 18
- December 10: Page 106, par. 19,
to page 116, par. 39
- December 17: Page 117, par. 1,
to page 125, par. 19
- December 24: Page 125, par. 20,
to page 133, par. 37

TOPIC FOR CONVERSATION

Now Is the Time to Search for God.

Isa. 55:6, 7—The true God can be found.

Acts 17:26, 27—Man must seek God now.

Offering Mankind's Search for God

¹ As we preach from house to house, on the streets, and informally, we sometimes meet people who profess a non-Christian religion. If we have only a scanty knowledge of their religious background, it may be difficult for us to give an effective witness about God's Kingdom. Now, with the new publication *Mankind's Search for God*, we can get insight into the world's major religions and better understand the beliefs of these people. We can be equipped to help as many as possible to come "out from the snare of the Devil."—2 Tim. 2:24-26; Titus 3:2.

² In the course of our ministry, some people will identify themselves as Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, or as a member of some other major religious group. We can kindly acknowledge this fact and perhaps say: "It is interesting to meet people of many different religions. Mankind's search for God has taken many different directions. [Here, according to the circumstances, one can use the text(s) from the Topic for Conversation.] But do you not agree that generally people profess the religion of their parents, rather than search for God themselves? In other words, they were born into a certain religion. That is a point made in the first chapter of this book *Mankind's Search for God*. [Show page 8, paragraph 12.] Learning more about other religions can be interesting. This book explains the origin, practices, and teachings of the major religions of the world." Then flip through the pages to show some illustrations on the religion professed by the householder. Explain briefly that you are a volunteer worker and that the book is

published as part of a worldwide effort to help sincere people in their search for God. If the person shows genuine interest, encourage him to accept and read the book.

³ When appropriate, explain also that this work is supported by voluntary donations, and make arrangements to return.

⁴ Another approach might be to go directly to the chapter that relates to the householder's own religion. Certainly a Hindu will be attracted to the map of India found on page 123 and to the photos on pages 96 and 117. Occasionally we may meet a Sikh wearing a traditional turban. Pages 100-101 present a brief summary of that faith.

⁵ A Muslim may be pleasantly surprised to see the sequence of pictures of Mecca and the Ka'bah on page 289 and the quotations from the Qur'an on page 288 and other pages. Buddhists in search of enlightenment might show interest in chapter 6 and its illustrations on pages 141 and 157. People of Chinese origin should appreciate chapter 7, on Taoism and Confucianism. The illustrations on pages 171 and 173 may arouse interest in the book. While many Japanese profess both Buddhism and Shintoism, they will identify with the illustrations on pages 190 and 195 in the chapter on "Shinto—Japan's Search for God."

⁶ In many territories we meet those of the Jewish religion. Chapter 9, "Judaism—Searching for God Through Scripture and Tradition," should spark their interest. They are usually interested in education, and thus the whole book will appeal to many. We

(Continued on page 2, col. 1)

Conducting Meaningful Family Bible Studies

¹ One of the most important activities parents perform is teaching their children the truth. It is an obligation from Jehovah. (Deut. 6:6, 7) Children need direction and guidance to walk uprightly in an ungodly world. They need to learn to love Jehovah and the truth and be determined to stick with it. The August 1, 1988, *Watchtower*, page 11, stated: "Despite any other obligations you have or the troubles you face, spending time with your children needs to be given priority. The time spent together will allow you to inculcate the spiritual values that will safeguard the hearts of your children and set them on the right course."

² If families are to follow the guidelines given in God's Word, time must be set aside regularly for family study. Family heads need to give pri-

ority to caring for the family's spirituality. If proper attention is not given to the spiritual needs of the household now, very likely parents will have to deal with serious problems in the future.

STUDY MATERIAL AND METHODS

³ What should be studied? The family head is in the best position to know what the family needs. He can inquire as to what the others think will be beneficial and take their suggestions into consideration. Flexibility will make the family study practical and stimulating. Many families choose to prepare the weekly lesson in *The Watchtower*. However, it may be necessary at times to discuss specific subjects covering problems youths face in school. Published

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Meetings to Help Us Make Disciples

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 3

Song 80

10 min: Local announcements and selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry*. Discuss specific points from magazine articles for use on the weekend.

15 min: "Offering Mankind's Search for God." Questions and answers. After considering paragraph 2, demonstrate presentation. If there are some territories with a concentration of people professing a non-Christian religion, special effort should be made to work these areas.

20 min: "Conducting Meaningful Family Bible Studies." Questions and answers. As time allows, have one or two parents relate what they have done to make their family Bible study instructive and enjoyable.

Song 42 and concluding prayer.

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 10

Song 76

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Commend the bro-

Search

(Cont'd)

also meet atheists and agnostics, and chapter 14, entitled "Modern Disbelief—Should the Search Continue?" will appeal to sincere ones among them. The arguments in favor of a belief in God are found from page 334 onward.

⁷ For anyone professing a religion of Christendom, chapter 10 might be of interest. Page 236 raises the question, "Jesus—What Were His Credentials?" Pages 243 and 251 illustrate two of the miracles Christ performed. How do we know that Jesus had God's approval? The illustration on page 253 answers that question.

⁸ Obviously, in order to adapt our presentation to each individual, we need to know the contents of the book and be familiar with the sequence of the chapters and the illustrations. (For further suggestions refer to *Reasoning From the Scriptures*, pages 21-4.) Then we may be able to sow the seed of truth by a tactful presentation of this new book. (1 Cor. 9: 19-23; Col. 4:5, 6) Since the Bible is often quoted for comparison throughout the book, there is a good basis for starting Bible studies. A later article will suggest how we can make return visits so as to start studies with people of many faiths.

ers for proper use of "unrighteous riches." (Luke 16:9; it-2, p. 806)

20 min: "Watchtower Educational Center." Talk with audience participation. Highlight worldwide growth of educational work and reason for expansion. Discuss ways we can support this project by our contributions and by volunteering for temporary construction work if our circumstances allow. If possible, interview some who have volunteered for temporary construction work.

15 min: Do You Keep the Lines of Communication Open? Elder discusses two or three principles found in chapter 11 of *Family Life* book. Include brief skits based on material in paragraphs 5-8, showing how parents can either encourage or discourage communication by a child.

Song 221 and concluding prayer.

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 17

Song 126

10 min: Local announcements. Question Box. Cover items in Theocratic News as time permits.

15 min: "Presenting the Good News

Bible Studies

(Cont'd)

information dealing with dating, extracurricular activities, sports, and immoral tendencies can be considered in an upbuilding, encouraging way. It is important that the family head continually reexamine what information the family needs and how best to reach their hearts with it.—See *The Watchtower*, February 15, 1971, pages 105-6.

⁴ How should a study be conducted? Cultivate a relaxed yet respectful atmosphere. Avoid a mechanical, overly formal procedure. Ask additional questions, and use illustrations to stimulate thinking and keep all involved. Visual aids, such as maps and charts, can be used to enhance the material. Assignments can be given to locate material in the *Index* or the *Insight* volumes, according to the children's ages and abilities. Bring younger children into the discussion as soon as they are able to respond. Simple questions requiring answers of only a few words can be asked of them. Do not use study periods to scold children. Rather, commend them, show appreciation for their efforts, and be enthusiastic in sharing spiritual viewpoints with them.

⁵ How can you be sure you are reaching the heart? Encourage all to put answers in their own words.

—On Holidays." Questions and answers. Announce special service arrangements for holidays.

20 min: "Your Role in Building for the Future." Questions and answers covering material in insert. Commend brothers for generous contributions to Society Kingdom Hall Fund and for support any have given to local construction projects.

Song 93 and concluding prayer.

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 24

Song 91

10 min: Local announcements. Encourage witnessing during holidays. Suggest articles for use on magazine day.

20 min: "Being Taught by Jehovah." School overseer discusses with audience. Interview exemplary student, highlighting benefits he derives from advance preparation and working on speech counsel points.

15 min: Local needs or talk on "Pray for One Another" based on article in *The Watchtower* of November 15, 1990.

Song 55 and concluding prayer.

Tactfully use viewpoint questions to determine heart attitudes. You could ask: "How do children in school feel about this matter? Do you ever have any doubts on this point?" Be careful not to overreact to answers the children may give to viewpoint questions, or your children may not feel free to express themselves honestly. Give them time to speak. Their knowing you are interested in them and their problems will make your teaching efforts much easier.—See *The Watchtower*, November 1, 1986, pages 23-5.

⁶ Keep in mind that the main objective of your family study is to inculcate Jehovah's thoughts and not just to find an answer to recite at a congregation meeting. (Eph. 3:17-19) This means working to get information into the heart. Give the family reasons why they should want to do God's will and why that is the very best course in living.

⁷ Regular family Bible study is essential for building up the family's spirituality. It trains and equips children to cope with life's problems. You parents are in the best position to help your children. Assume this God-given responsibility. Surely Jehovah will bless you if you make every effort to be consistent in conducting a meaningful family Bible study.

Your Role in Building for the Future

¹ Today Christians are continuing to care for a spiritual building work that Jesus started about 1,960 years ago when he began gathering disciples. (Matt. 4:17; 7:24, 25, 28; John 7:46) Jehovah has blessed this work abundantly. (Prov. 10:22) As we go about announcing God's Kingdom, we are also building to care for future increase.—Eccl. 11:6.

² While many older Kingdom Halls must be renovated, additional halls are needed to accommodate new congregations that are being formed. Last year congregations in the United States increased by 244. Both finances and volunteer workers are needed for the successful completion of these construction projects. The brothers' commendable positive attitude toward filling this need is being richly rewarded.—Ps. 41:1; Prov. 19:17; Eccl. 11:1; Luke 14:13, 14.

LOVING ASSISTANCE OFFERED BY MANY

³ We display our love for "the whole association of brothers" by contributing to the Society Kingdom Hall Fund. (1 Pet. 2:17) Contributions received in this branch have provided funds to build 766 new Kingdom Halls, accommodating over 1,140 congregations. But the need continues to grow as the ingathering work speeds up. So Jehovah is continuing to bless this arrangement, and the elders should make sure that the contribution box for the Society Kingdom Hall Fund is clearly identified and available to all. The contributions received along with funds from repayment of loans are used to construct new Kingdom Halls.

⁴ The Society, together with all the congregations that are benefiting from the provision, expresses deep appreciation to the multitude of individuals and families who regularly contribute to the Society Kingdom Hall Fund. Many congregations have passed resolutions to contribute to this fund. Some circuits have lovingly made similar resolutions.

⁵ Are you skilled in a construction trade? If so, and if you are available to assist with Kingdom Hall construction, you can make this known to the local elders and the circuit overseer. Skilled volunteer workers are needed throughout the country. Additionally, under the direction of the Society-appointed Regional Building Committees, other spiritually qualified brothers are be-

ing trained to do the required work so that more congregations can be assisted with their building projects.

THE ROLE OF REGIONAL BUILDING COMMITTEES

⁶ The 66 Regional Building Committees give assistance at all stages of planning and construction. These committees have Society-provided designs that lend themselves to rapid methods of construction. The brothers serving on the committees are experienced elders, and they can offer valuable suggestions for building modest and attractive Kingdom Halls as well as for saving time and money. Because of their experience, they can help local elders decide whether it would be better to remodel an existing Kingdom Hall or to build a new one, and they can help them determine before a purchase whether a proposed site for new construction is suitable. They can also help elders to estimate accurately construction costs and the market value of an existing Kingdom Hall that may be sold.

⁷ Well before purchasing property, it is wise to consult the Regional Building Committee. These committees are assigned to assist with Kingdom Hall construction in a designated area composed of several circuits, and they can help with property purchase. They have guidelines to help brothers avoid difficulties that could be encountered in acquiring property. Each circuit overseer is advised of the name, address, and telephone number of the committee chairman and can share this information with the local elders when there is a need.

⁸ When selecting property for Kingdom Hall construction in a city having more than one congregation, the local elders should discuss the matter with the Regional Building Committee, the circuit overseer(s), the city overseer, and possibly the elders from nearby congregations. This may aid the local elders in choosing a site that will benefit the congregation(s) involved in the present project and possibly relieve overcrowded conditions in neighboring Kingdom Halls, while also allowing for future growth in the area. In urban areas, a single Kingdom Hall is often used by three or more congregations. Even in less densely populated areas, a location

may be selected that can serve two or more congregations.

⁹ Using guidelines provided by the Society, Regional Building Committees provide a valuable service as they assist local congregations with their remodeling and new construction projects. During construction, volunteers are scheduled for just the time they will actually be needed at the construction site so that they will not miss sharing in the meetings and field service activity of their congregation. One Regional Building Committee stated: "By our continued efforts to apply the Society's guidelines, we have been helped to simplify and speed up the building procedures."

¹⁰ The organization and skills learned on these projects have been helpful in Assembly Hall construction and in assisting the brothers rebuild after natural disasters, such as Hurricane Hugo and the earthquake in northern California in 1989. A number of volunteers have been called to work temporarily at Bethel, some helping with the work now under way at Patterson, New York. Others have joined the International Volunteer Construction Worker Program, helping with construction at branches throughout the world.

¹¹ All can display the fruitage of kindness in cooperating with those overseeing the construction activity. In this way the needed work is "fully performed" and done "with joy and not with sighing." (Acts 14:26; Heb. 13:17) A Regional Building Committee in Michigan was able to report: "The cooperation between the three congregations was exceptional. . . . The brothers all displayed spiritual maturity. They were a joy to work with. It was a project to remember."

FINANCING KINGDOM HALL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

¹² Arrangements for any needed financing should be made at the outset. (Luke 14:28-30) The elders should determine the congregation's ability to pay the costs involved by taking a survey to determine (1) how much will be contributed in a lump sum to assist with property purchase and construction costs, (2) how much can be loaned locally and the length of time the funds will be available, and (3) how much the publishers have in mind contributing monthly to repay any needed loan in addition to caring for normal operating expenses.

¹³ Thereafter, elders of congregations desiring financial assistance from the Society Kingdom Hall Fund should discuss their proposed project and financial requirements with the circuit overseer, who can assist them by advising the Society of their needs and the details of the project. After information has been sent to the Society by the circuit overseer, correspondence is sent directly to the congregations involved. Financial assistance is provided progressively as funds become available and according to the need.

MAINTAIN A ZEALOUS SPIRIT

¹⁴ All are to be commended for their generosity in supporting the Society Kingdom Hall Fund. Many expressions of appreciation are received from congregations that have been assisted. An "equalizing" is taking place among the congregations. (2 Cor. 8:14, 15) Four congregations in Oregon wrote: "How appreciative we are for such a fine program, and how thankful we are to all the many generous brothers who have contributed to the Society Kingdom Hall Fund . . . Truly, outstanding Christian love has been demonstrated in our behalf. Please accept our thanks for all your help in making this Kingdom Hall project a success."

¹⁵ During the building of a new Kingdom Hall, enthusiasm, zeal, and a positive spirit contribute to the success of the project. The same spirit should continue as we seek to bring many more persons to a knowledge of the truth and encourage them to meet with us at the Kingdom Hall. Such zeal is a manifest expression of appreciation that results in marked increases in meeting attendance and in the overall growth of the congregation.

¹⁶ As we continue to expand our ministry, exerting ourselves vigorously in the work at hand, no doubt Jehovah's blessing will continue with us. (Luke 13:24) We do not know what growth and increase await us in the future. But we need to be ready to welcome any future influx of worshipers. That requires preparation on our part now. Thus, we pray for Jehovah's continued blessing and direction. In building for the future, may we all be workers with Jehovah—physically, materially, and spiritually. He will certainly bless us as we take proper care of those hastening into his Kingdom organization during the final part of these last days.—Isa. 60:8, 10, 11, 22.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

Closed-book review on material covered in Theocratic Ministry School assignments for the weeks of September 3 to December 24, 1990. Use a separate sheet of paper to write down answers to as many of the questions as you can in the time allotted.

[Note: During the written review, only the Bible may be used to answer any question. References that follow the questions are for your personal research. Page and paragraph numbers may not appear on all references to *The Watchtower*.]

Answer each of the following statements True or False:

1. James' letter encouraging faith by works contradicts Paul's writing regarding salvation by faith and not by works. [si p. 246 par. 6] *F*
2. First John was evidently intended for the entire Christian association, not to a particular congregation. [si p. 255 par. 5] *T*
3. Everyone born from God does not commit a sin. [si p. 255 par. 10] *F*
4. "The chosen lady" addressed in Second John might well refer to a Christian congregation. (2 John 1:1) [si p. 256 par. 1] *T*
5. Third John gives us an interesting glimpse into the relationship between congregations and traveling overseers. [si p. 258 par. 3] *T*
6. Jude made capital of the fact that he is a half brother of Jesus Christ. [si p. 259 par. 2] *F*
7. The prophecies about the salvation of Israel are fulfilled not by fleshly Israel but by the Christian congregation. (Rom. chaps. 9-11) [Weekly Bible reading; see w90 8/1 p. 24.] *T*
8. Jehovah 'makes the way out' by removing the temptation. (1 Cor. 10:13) [Weekly Bible reading; see w74 p. 64.] *F*
9. The "brand marks" that left certain scars may have been due to the physical

abuse Paul received. (Gal. 6:17) [Weekly Bible reading; see w90 11/15.] *T*

10. The 'gathering of all things on earth' will continue until those in the memorial tombs hear Jesus' voice and come out. (Eph. 1:10) [Weekly Bible reading; see w90 11/15.] *T*

Answer the following questions:

11. What counsel does James give regarding sins? [si p. 248 par. 14] *leave sin & death*
12. What mental disposition does First Peter show that Christians should have? [si p. 250 par. 9] *Christ suffered, you too*
13. Name one of the powerful illustrations Peter used to show the certainty of God's judgments against false prophets and teachers. [si p. 252 par. 5] *Wicked spirits in Noah's day*
14. How is the antichrist identified? [si p. 255 par. 7] *those saying he is not God's son*
15. To what does the "public declaration" mentioned at Romans 10:9, 10 primarily refer? [Weekly Bible reading; see w88 1/1 p. 22 and 6/15 p. 29.] *of one's faith with the heart*
16. In what two ways can the elders underscore the seriousness of God's counsel to marry "only in the Lord"? (1 Cor. 7:39) [Weekly Bible reading; see w82 3/15 p. 31.] *Examples -*
17. What are the "burning missiles" that challenge our faith? (Eph. 6:16) [Weekly Bible reading; see w90 11/15.] *doctrines - Temp.*

18. What was "the goal" toward which Paul was pursuing? (Phil. 3:13, 14) [Weekly Bible reading; see w90 11/15.]

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Provide the word or phrase needed to complete each of the following statements:

19. James counseled that instead of boasting about our plans we should say if Jehovah will we will do this or that. [si p. 247 par. 12]

20. Instead of being impatient regarding the coming of Jehovah's day, we should consider his patience as resulting in life for many others. [si p. 253 par. 7]

21. It is generally believed that John's three letters were completed by 98 and that they were written in the vicinity of Eph. [si p. 254 par. 2]

22. In showing that ungodly men should not be speaking abusively of glorious ones, Jude referred to the good example of Michael. [si p. 260 par. 6]

23. According to Romans 13:1, secular rulers exist only by God's permission. [Weekly Bible reading; see w90 8/1 p. 24.]

24. When Peter separated from Gentile believers at Antioch because he feared Jewish Christians from Jerusalem, Paul reproved him. [Weekly Bible reading; see w90 11/15.]

25. Paul reassured the Philippians about Ephesus who had been very sick. [Weekly Bible reading; see w90 11/15.]

Select the correct answer in each of the following statements:

26. First Peter was written when Peter was in (Rome; Jerusalem; Babylon). [si p. 249 par. 5]

27. Second Peter was probably written approximately (56; 64; 70) C.E. [si p. 252 par. 3]

28. Possibly influenced by (Greek philosophy; emotion; Hebrew Scriptures), some in the Corinth congregation said that there is no resurrection of the dead. (1 Cor. 15:32) [Weekly Bible reading; see w90 9/15 p. 25.]

29. At 2 Corinthians 3:18, Paul alludes to an experience of (Moses; Joshua; Elijah). [Weekly Bible reading; see w90 9/15 p. 26.]

30. Paul cited the fine example of the (Corinthians; Macedonians; Ephesians) because in material giving they had been generous beyond their ability. [Weekly Bible reading; see w90 9/15 p. 27.]

Match the following scriptures to the statements listed below:

Rom. 7:4; 1 Cor. 4:9; 14:40; 2 Cor. 6:7; 1 Pet. 3:21

31. God makes provision for salvation through baptism and through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. [si p. 250 par. 8] *1 pt 3:21*

32. Though assaulted from all sides, Paul and his fellow workers were armed to wage spiritual warfare. [Weekly Bible reading; see w90 9/15 p. 27.] *2 Cor 6:7*

33. Paul alluded to death in the arena. [Weekly Bible reading; see w90 9/15 p. 24.] *1 Cor 4:9*

34. By having our meetings well organized, we bring honor to God. [Weekly Bible reading; see w90 9/15 p. 25.] *1 Cor 14:40*

35. The death of Jesus freed believing Jews from subjection to the Law. [Weekly Bible reading; see w90 8/1 p. 24.] *Rom 7:4*

Announcements

● Literature offer for December: *Man-kind's Search for God*. January and February: Any 192-page book published prior to 1980 that the congregation has in stock. If the congregation has no stock of such books to be offered, the book "Let Your Kingdom Come" should be used. The "Kingdom Come" book may be requested from Brooklyn. March: *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*

● The Memorial for 1992 will be Friday, April 17, after sundown. This advance notice of the date for the 1992 Memorial celebration is given so that brothers may make necessary reservations or contracts for available halls when there are too many congregations using the Kingdom Hall and they must find other facilities.

● The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on December 1 or as soon as possible thereafter.

● It is important that brothers planning charters to visit Brooklyn Bethel, Watchtower Farms, or the Watchtower Educational Center project site at Patterson correspond by mail with the Brooklyn Bethel Office first. Please provide information on the number coming and the dates and times of the visits. The Society will provide tour information as well as a map indicating the route charter buses should take. All letters regarding tours, whether for Brooklyn, Watchtower Farms, or Patterson, should be addressed to Watchtower, Bethel Office, 124 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201.

● Congregations should begin requesting bound volumes of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* for 1990 on their December literature requests. (See the *Watchtower Publications List*, paragraphs 6-8, 10.) The bound volumes will be available in Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, and Spanish. Until the bound volumes are available and shipments are made, these will appear as "Pending" on congregation packing lists. Bound volumes are special request items.—See the *Watchtower Publications List*, paragraphs 24 and 25.

● As stated in the October 15, 1990, letter sent to all congregations in the United States and its possessions, individuals interested in obtaining the 55-minute English-language video, *Jehovah's Witnesses—The Organization Behind the Name*, should make their request through the congregation. Please bear in mind that these videocassettes are special request items.

● New Publications Available:

Aid to Bible Understanding, Volume 7 (Over-Slaan) —Dutch

"All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial," 1990 Edition —Spanish

Insight on the Scriptures, Volume 1 (Aara-Imila) —Italian

Mankind's Search for God —Japanese

Watch Tower Publications Index 1945-1985 —Italian

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Being Taught by Jehovah

¹ The prophet Isaiah declared: "The Sovereign Lord Jehovah himself has given me the tongue of the taught ones, that I may know how to answer the tired one with a word." (Isa. 50:4) One way Jehovah does this is through the training provided by the Theocratic Ministry School. Individual effort, though, is still required. The *Theocratic Ministry School Guidebook* on page 39 makes this observation: "No matter how many times you have handled a certain type of assignment, preparation is always of value." This applies to all of us, whether we have been in the school for just a few months or since the school began in 1943.

² All students should prepare thoroughly. This includes being conscious of timing. The instructions in the Theocratic Ministry School Schedule state: "No talk should go overtime." When a brother handling Assignment No. 1 repeatedly goes overtime, he should be given private counsel. The school overseer should also start the meeting right on time and observe the instructions regarding the time allotted for his counsel and remarks. Please observe that the 1990 revised edition of the "All Scripture" book is to be used.

³ All can benefit greatly from the Bible highlights portion. We are reminded that these should not simply be a review of the assigned material. The speaker should help the audience to appreciate *why* and *how* the information is of value to us.

⁴ With Talk No. 3, many settings have been used with varying success. But having in mind one of the main purposes of the school, which is to help us present the truth accurately

and clearly, it is preferred that settings involve field service or informal witnessing.

⁵ Talk No. 4, when taken from the book *Questions Young People Ask—Answers That Work*, will be assigned to new or younger students. Of course, the student assigned should be able to read. These talks will alternate every other week with a presentation from the *Reasoning* book. With both Talk No. 3 and Talk No. 4, the student should use the theme shown.

⁶ Care needs to be exercised when it comes to bringing in additional material. Some of the assigned material may involve only one or two paragraphs. But the material can still be effectively presented in the allotted time by reading and explaining the Scriptures, using illustrations, and so forth. Generally, we do not need to present material outside of what is assigned. The audience should be able to follow you in the publication the talk is based on.

⁷ The God we worship provides an inexhaustible source of wisdom and knowledge. (Rom. 11:33) Even after millenniums of time, we will still have much to learn. Our ability to praise our heavenly Father and handle life's problems as well as our contentment and joy will all increase in proportion to the effort we expend to acquire godly wisdom. Make it your determination, then, to benefit fully from the provision our Grand Instructor has made for us by regularly attending the Theocratic Ministry School. May your diligence in preparation for and participation in the Theocratic Ministry School during 1991 help you to accomplish this.

Question Box

● Why is it important to finish studying two books thoroughly with new disciples even if they get baptized before the second book is finished?

Jehovah is blessing his organization with an influx of new ones who are flocking to the congregations. We rejoice to see this great ingathering. However, we appreciate that these sheeplike people need continuing assistance and direction in learning to serve Jehovah.

New ones need help to come to an accurate knowledge of the truth. (Col. 1:9, 10) We have the privilege to aid them in gaining a good understanding of basic doctrines of the Bible and a good grasp of what the Bible teaches concerning moral standards, Christian living, and related matters. This will help them to be firmly estab-

lished in the truth so as to overcome whatever tests may lie ahead.

Students also need to become full-grown in their powers of understanding. (1 Cor. 14:20) Experience has shown that to achieve the stature of a spiritually full-grown man, a personal Bible study with a teacher is helpful. Thus, even though a person may get baptized before completing his study of two books, wisdom dictates that his home Bible study should continue until he has completed the study of both books.

AFTER BAPTISM

Jesus said we should make disciples—baptizing and teaching them. (Matt. 28:19, 20) Much of the instructing of disciples is done following baptism. The knowledge that a

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On Holidays

¹ Although many celebrations associated with Christmas and the New Year have pagan origins, over a billion professed Christians observe these holidays every year. Many people sincerely believe that these observances are approved by God. How can we reach the hearts of such ones with the good news during the holiday season?

BE CONSIDERATE AND RESPECTFUL

² The elders make special arrangements for holiday witnessing, since many of us have time off from secular work. The time for beginning house-to-house work should be adjusted out of consideration for those householders who may be sleeping later than usual on these days.

³ As we carry on our ministry, we will likely find a number of people quite occupied with visitors and meal preparations. Recognizing that it is a special time for them, we can respectfully make our comments brief and to the point. Christian courtesy on our part may open the way for a further witness in the future.

⁴ We do not share in worldly religious celebrations, and we do not exchange traditional holiday greetings. Therefore, tact is needed in how we react to such greetings. There is no need to make an issue of the greeting, but in most cases we can simply thank the householder for his good wishes. If people inquire about our belief, we can assure them that we honor Christ Jesus, since that is required of those who honor God. (John 5:23) However, many holiday customs do not honor either Christ or God. If individuals desire more information at that time or later, we can share with them the

material in the *Reasoning* book on pages 176-8 and 180.

INTRODUCTIONS

⁵ Since the Christmas holidays are religious in nature, we may find many people who are more inclined to talk about God at this time than at any other time of the year. We can take advantage of this fact in our introduction. For example, we might say: "Millions of persons throughout the earth are celebrating Christmas and New Year's Day. Do you think that these festivities are bringing people closer to God?" Whether the householder feels that the observances are good or bad, after acknowledging his comments, we could say: "Many people wish that they had a better relationship with God, perhaps feeling that God is somewhat distant from them. Happily, God himself invites us to search for him." Then proceed with the Topic for Conversation.

⁶ Taking another approach, we could say: "During this Christmas season, we often hear people express the hope that there will be peace on earth and goodwill toward men. Do you think God will bring peace to the earth in our time?" Thereafter we can go on to show that Jesus Christ is the foretold "Prince of Peace." (Isa. 9: 6, 7) As the appointed Ruler in God's government, Christ will soon take action to bring lasting peace to the earth.—Dan. 2:44; Rev. 21:3-5.

⁷ Though most people are apathetic toward the Kingdom message and take delight in their false religious holidays, Jehovah will most certainly bless our efforts to find truth seekers, for he himself "is looking for suchlike ones to worship him," and he will direct them to his organization.—John 4:23, 24.

Question Box

(Cont'd)

person can get from just one book is not usually sufficient to round out his spiritual training. Additional instruction is needed to fit him for the work of the ministry and equip him to resist the pressures that come upon those who serve Jehovah in these last days. Failure to provide sufficient training may leave the student unprepared spiritually to stand on his own. After a new one is baptized, we continue helping him to make further progress whether he has finished studying two books or not. The first publication studied provides understanding on fundamentals. The second publication covers Christian qualities. These publications may be the *Live Forever* book and then either the *United in Worship* book or the *True*

Peace book. If these books are not available, others containing similar information may be used. Continuing the Bible study until the second book is finished provides a sound education in Jehovah's purposes as well as his high Christian standards and requirements. This helps the new one to understand the meaning of Christian principles and become firmly rooted in the faith. (Col. 2:7) For further details and information on reporting such studies, see the Question Box in the November 1987 *Our Kingdom Ministry*.

Of course, after baptism new ones should be expected to make spiritual progress. (Heb. 6:1-3) In most cases it does not take long to finish the second book. The new person is thus provided with a solid foundation.

♦ Alaska reached a new peak of 2,053 publishers in July, a 12-percent increase over last year's average. Peak attendance at the "Pure Language" District Convention in July was 2,929 with 50 baptized.

♦ Fiji had their 67th consecutive publisher peak in July with 1,534 reporting. Bible studies increased to 2,605.

♦ As of September 1990, the country of French Guiana in the northern part of South America has a branch office of the Watch Tower Society. They had a new peak of 660 publishers in July, and their district convention was attended by 1,479 with 41 baptized.

Announcements (Cont'd)

Watch Tower Publications Index 1950-1985 —Greek

You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth (Small size) —Ndonga, Slovak, Tamil

Bible Topics for Discussion —Polish, Russian

Enjoy Life on Earth Forever! —Mahorian

How Can Blood Save Your Life? —Japanese

Jehovah's Witnesses in the Twentieth Century —Croatian, Serbian

"Look! I Am Making All Things New" (Brochure) —Basque

School and Jehovah's Witnesses —Polish

Should You Believe in the Trinity? —Hindi, Romanian, Tamil

Tract No. 15 —Laotian

• The following publication is now available in grade-one French Braille:

How Can Blood Save Your Life? (one volume)

• The following publications are now available in grade-one German Braille:

A Secure Future—How You Can Find It (one volume)

Is There a God Who Cares? (one volume)

Jehovah's Witnesses—Unitedly Doing God's Will Worldwide (one volume)

"Look! I Am Making All Things New" (one volume)

• The following publication is now available in grade-one Spanish Braille:

How Can Blood Save Your Life? (one volume)

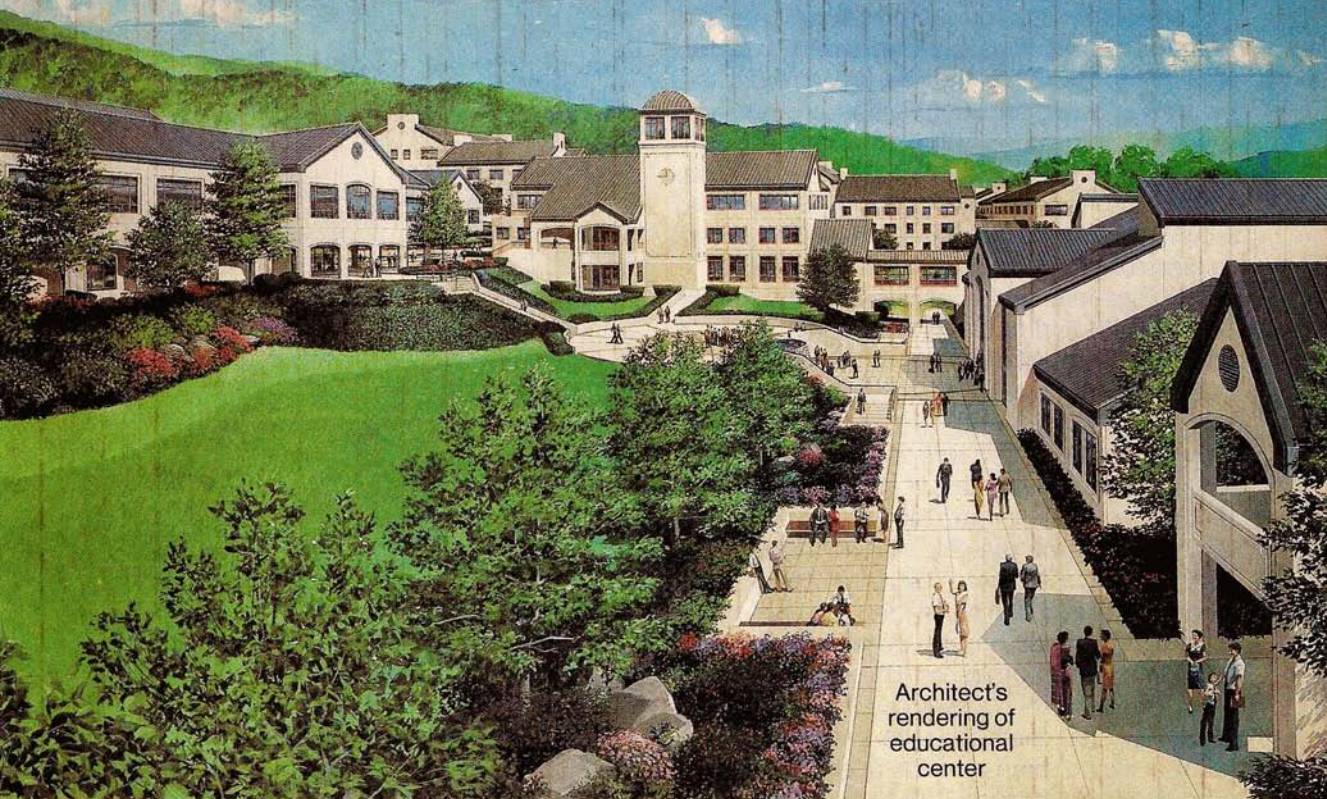
Mark requests for Braille publications, ATTENTION: BRAILLE DESK. Include name and address of the person that will use the Braille material.

SEPTEMBER SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	218	124.0	86.6	52.3	5.4
Pios.	65,480	82.1	40.2	25.8	2.5
Aux. Pios.	36,079	59.0	29.1	15.4	1.3
Pubs.	723,111	10.1	6.7	3.7	0.5
TOTAL	824,888				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 2,314

Watchtower Educational Center



Architect's
rendering of
educational
center

The Society is pleased to extend to you an invitation to visit the recently opened visitors' center for the Watchtower Educational Center now being constructed at Patterson, New York. The visitors' center includes a video presentation, picture displays, and an outside observation deck. What is the purpose in constructing an educational center, and why are over four hundred brothers and sisters now working on this project?

Mankind's greatest need in this last decade of the 20th century is to be properly educated about its Creator, Jehovah God. Jesus Christ said: "This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ." (John 17:3) Whereas fast-moving political changes have captured the attention of much of the human race, Jehovah's Witnesses have been actively educating millions of honest-hearted ones about God's purpose involving life, freedom, and peace. These people are being helped to align their lives with Jehovah's will and thus have the prospect of everlasting life.—Isa. 48:17.

In recent years, there has been a tremendous growth in the number of Kingdom proclaimers worldwide. In 1980 the peak was nearly 2.3 million. By 1990 this number grew to some four million. This growth has placed an increased demand on the Society's branch facilities throughout the world. As an example, the U.S. headquarters staff (including Brooklyn and Watchtower Farms) has increased in number nearly 75 percent during that same ten-year period. So at the present rate of growth, nearly 250 additional Bethel family members are needed each year. The same increased demands have been felt in other countries as well.

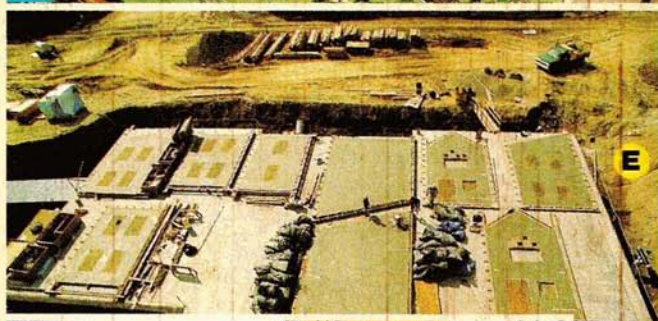
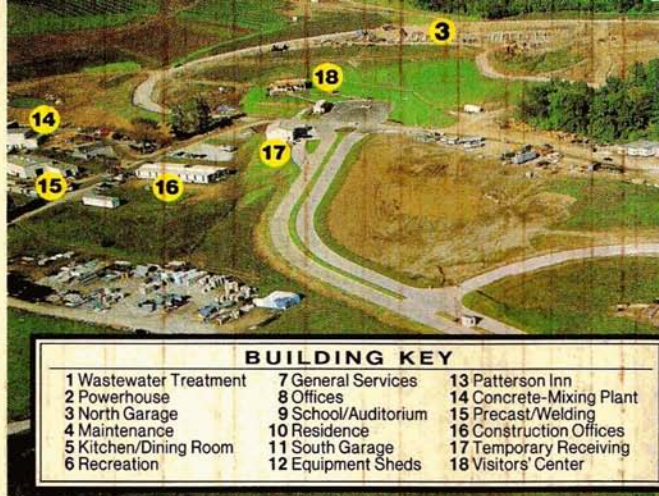
A major forward step in this worldwide Bible educational activity is the construction of the Watchtower Educational Center at Patterson, New York. When complete, the project will include housing for about 1,200 brothers and sisters. This number will consist of members of the Bethel family and students invited to the Gilead missionary school and others who may receive training from time to time. There will be classrooms, an auditorium for approximately 1,600 people, and considerable office space. These additional facilities will no doubt play a vital role in the continued Bible educational work being done worldwide.

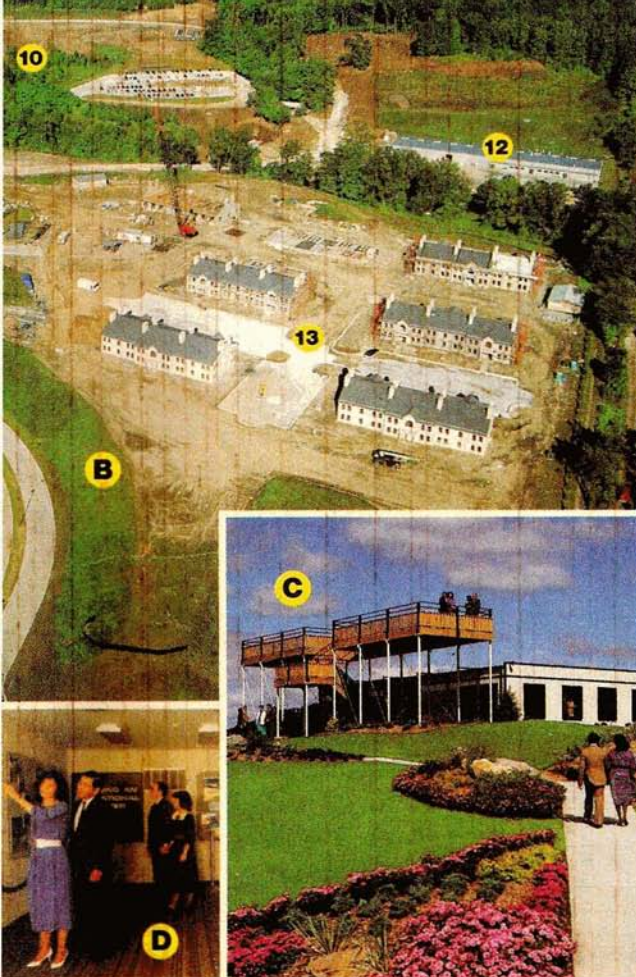
Progress to Date

In December 1984 a property consisting of 684 acres was purchased. It is centrally located about 70 miles north of Brooklyn Bethel and 45 miles east of the Society's Wallkill, New York, facility. Between 1984 and 1988 many months were spent in surveying, preparing drawings, and obtaining necessary building permits. Eight houses on the property were renovated. These houses now provide accommodations for some members of the Bethel family. Since many more accommodations were needed, a total of 14 houses within seven miles of the property have been leased. Also, many brothers who live near Patterson have opened their homes to accommodate members of the Bethel family working on the project.

To provide support services, several temporary buildings had to be erected. This work began in 1988. It is anticipated that nearly 75,000 cubic yards, or 10,000 truckloads, of concrete will be used on the project. So a concrete-mixing plant was moved to Patterson from Watchtower Farms. Trailers were installed to serve as construction offices. Facilities were built for the repair and maintenance of equipment. A 300- by 85-foot metal building that was constructed in 1989 now houses a temporary kitchen, a dining room that will seat up to seven hundred people, a locker room, and construction shops.

Since the project is comparable in size to a small town, considerable work is involved in constructing some three miles of paved roads, underground utilities, and facilities for treat-





- A** Architect's model
- B** Aerial view of construction site
- C** Outside view of visitors' center
- D** Inside view of visitors' center
- E** Tilt-up panels lying on slab
- F** Placing tilt-up panels
- G** Aerial view of Patterson Inn



ing water and wastewater. This work began in 1989. One of the first projects was the building of the main entrance road, which included widening the state highway in front of the main entrance, allowing for safe entrance to and exit from the site. To provide utilities for the educational center, 30 miles of electrical conduit, 1 1/2 miles of water pipe, and 3 miles of sewer pipe were installed.

In July 1989 construction began on the Patterson Inn, a 150-unit hotel located next to the educational center. This will initially serve as housing for construction workers and then will eventually be used as guest facilities for those visiting the educational center. Occupancy of portions of the Patterson Inn by the workers is scheduled to begin in the spring of 1991.

Work is proceeding well on a 450-car parking garage, which will be used initially for additional construction shops and storage. Work has also been started on the first residential building, which will accommodate about three hundred Bethel family members.

Currently, there are over four hundred workers on the project. During 1991 the number of workers will likely increase to over six hundred, as the Patterson Inn is completed. In addition to work on the above-mentioned buildings, work will also begin on the kitchen and dining room facilities, with a capacity of 1,600, and on the powerhouse. This work will require several years to complete. After 1991 a total of 11 buildings are yet to be constructed.

Jehovah's People Offer Themselves Willingly

In addition to Bethel family members, about 125 brothers and sisters living near Patterson have volunteered as commuter workers. Over 2,200 brothers from all parts of the country have had a share in the temporary worker program. Most serve for a period of one to four weeks. They are housed in the Society's facility at Wallkill, New York, and travel by bus one hour each way to Patterson. Those who are married and serve for three months have been accompanied by their wives, who assist in the work at Watchtower Farms.

Psalm 110:3 says: "Your people will offer themselves willingly on the day of your

military force.” This is certainly true of Jehovah’s people in supporting this project.

There continues to be a need for qualified brothers in the construction and engineering trades to make themselves available. (Compare Exodus 36:2.) Brothers who would like to apply for one to four weeks may receive an application from the congregation secretary or write the Society. Those who have already served in this capacity and are in a position to volunteer for a three-month period may write the Society, indicating the dates they are available.

Another way we can assist is through our voluntary contributions. Many brothers have already made financial contributions to the work. (1 Chron. 29:3-7) Those wishing to contribute to this special project may send their donation to the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society at 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, New York 11201.

In these ways, all can have a share in the important work being done. (Phil. 1:9, 10) All of us pray for Jehovah’s rich blessing upon the expansion and spiritual prosperity of his organization.



Left, view east of Route 22 and below, pond and temporary Bethel accommodations west of the highway



Central Tour Desk

A new arrangement has been instituted to provide information on all the tours offered at Brooklyn Bethel, Watchtower Farms, Patterson, and the Jersey City Assembly Hall. A central tour desk will answer all correspondence related to tours. *It will no longer be necessary to write each location separately.* All tour correspondence should be addressed to the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society, 124 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, New York 11201, Attention: Bethel Office.

All tour bus groups should write to the central tour desk giving information regarding their itinerary so that further instructions can be given.

The Society has current information regarding hotels and motels that offer reduced rates to those visiting the headquarters facilities. This information may be obtained by writing the tour desk.