

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

APRIL 1991

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FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Meetings for Field Service

APRIL 1-7

New Topic for Conversation

1. How will you introduce it?
2. What key thoughts will you emphasize?
3. How will you tie in the offer?

APRIL 8-14

Why is it good to be flexible

1. In house-to-house discussions?
2. When offering literature?
3. In working with a partner?

APRIL 15-21

How can you show consideration for

1. Busy householders?
2. Elderly or infirm householders?
3. New or elderly publishers?

APRIL 22-28

How do you

1. Help a new publisher prepare for field service?
2. Prepare your book bag?
3. Prepare to make return visits?

APRIL 29-MAY 5

How can we show respect for the

1. Bible and our literature?
2. Householder and his property?
3. Field service group?

TOPIC FOR CONVERSATION

World Peace, Is It Near?

Luke 21:10, 11, 26—Bible prophecy fulfilled.

Luke 21:28, 31—God's Kingdom will soon bring peace.

Make Good Use of Our Publications

¹ Jehovah's visible organization has supplied us with a great variety of publications to assist us in our preaching and teaching work. (Matt. 28:19, 20) Our appreciation for the Society's publications should move us to make good use of them in our ministry.

² In carrying out our ministry, we want to help sheeplike ones get on the road to life. The literature can help us do that. When discussing the Scriptures with an interested person, we may find that a particular subject appeals to him. If we are well acquainted with the valuable information in the various publications, we will be able to adjust our presentation and offer a publication that specifically relates to the interests of the person with whom we are speaking. This may require making a return visit with the appropriate publication.

OFFER WHAT IS NEEDED

³ By thoroughly working our territory, we will find people who are sincerely interested in the Bible and would like to learn more about it. Any one of our publications can help them gain an understanding of the Bible. But if we are talking to a person who lacks faith in the Bible and believes that it is contradictory or unscientific, it may be appropriate to present *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?* That publication thoroughly refutes man's criticism of the Bible and gives clear explanations as to why the Bible should be accepted as God's Word. Or you could present the book *Man-*

kind's Search for God, using chapters 15 and 16.

⁴ Many people are faced with problems in their own homelife. They may have little knowledge of Bible counsel or of how to apply it. To help them face up to problems of life and find workable solutions, we may offer the *Family Life* book or perhaps we can focus on chapters 5 through 8 in the *Happiness* book. Changes may not always come quickly, but we can point out that Bible counsel really does work.

⁵ When calling on people who have children, consider offering publications prepared specifically with youngsters in mind. Perhaps you could use the *Young People Ask* publication. Many publishers have helped parents and youths alike by presenting *My Book of Bible Stories* or *Listening to the Great Teacher*.

⁶ The tracts are convenient to carry, and they can be used to start conversations when working from house to house as well as when witnessing informally. *What Hope for Dead Loved Ones?* is a very comforting tract, with valuable information. Do you carry several different tracts with you? Do you have prepared comments for introducing them?

⁷ As we share the good news with others, we want to make good use of the numerous Bible study aids provided by "the faithful and discreet slave." (Matt. 24:45-47) Such an abundance of spiritual food reflects the generosity of Jehovah and his concern for all mankind.

Start and Conclude Meetings on Time

¹ All congregation meetings, including meetings for field service, should start and conclude on time. Why? Being on time reflects order and shows consideration for all who attend and participate in meetings. (Eccl. 3:17b; 1 Cor. 14:33) We can show our concern by adhering to the following guidelines to ensure that meetings start and end on time.

² We should always endeavor to arrive at the meeting early enough to visit with others, take care of necessary matters, and share in the opening song and prayer. Generally, five minutes are allowed for song and prayer. Those representing the congregation in prayer should keep in mind the purpose of the meeting and let that be reflected in their expressions in the opening and concluding prayers. Such prayers need not be long.

³ *Public Meeting:* Public talks are limited to 45 minutes. Exceeding the time allowed will affect the *Watchtower* Study that follows. The

two meetings, including songs and prayers, are to be concluded in two hours. Public speakers should adhere to the timing indicated on the Society's outline and not include in the talk extraneous matters, such as greetings. If a speaker is unacquainted with the location of the Kingdom Hall, he should inquire of the host congregation for directions and approximate travel time.

⁴ *"Watchtower" Study:* One hour is allotted for the *Watchtower* Study, with all the paragraphs being read and the review questions considered. The conductor's brief, pointed introductory comments should arouse interest and lead into the lesson. His comments and observations during the study should be limited. Apportioning the material timewise will help the conductor avoid spending excessive time on the first half of the lesson and then rushing through the last half.

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Meetings to Help Us Make Disciples

WEEK STARTING APRIL 1

Song 191

10 min: Local announcements and selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry*. Discuss Memorial highlights, number of new ones present, and what can be done this week to encourage attendance at special talk, "The Messiah's Presence and His Rule," on April 7. Review field service arrangements for the week. Review briefly with congregation the instructions in How to Handle Subscriptions Properly (S(d)-11).

15 min: "Fulfilling Our Kingdom Ministry in the Congregation." A talk followed by a well-prepared demonstration with book study conductor explaining to a married couple how the *Index* may be used to find information on why and when head coverings are worn by sisters.

20 min: New Topic for Conversation. Discuss new Topic with audience. Also, consider various talking points from current issue of *The Watchtower*. Encourage brothers to give thoughtful consideration to persons who have shown genuine interest in the literature and who may enjoy receiving a subscription. Have a well-prepared publisher make the following presentation. "Hello. My name is _____. I'm making a brief call because I would like to ask you a question. Do you think that lasting peace will come in our lifetime? [Allow for a reply.] If we are to judge by the past, there is not much basis for hope. But notice what was prophesied for our time in Luke 21. [Read verses 10, 11, 26.] These conditions have prevailed since World War I. However, we are not left without hope. The very conditions that are so disturbing to mankind give evidence that God's Kingdom will soon cleanse the earth and bring in lasting peace. This is what Jesus goes on to say in verses 28 and 31. [Read texts.] So these woeful and discouraging conditions are actually evidence that a wonderful change will soon take place. Isn't that good news? [Allow for a reply.] This article in *The Watchtower* [select appropriate paragraph or illustration] shows some of the changes that will soon come and how you and your family may live to enjoy them. If you would like to read this information, I would be pleased to leave the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines with you." Depending on the interest shown, publisher can determine if subscription should be offered. Generally, this

is best done on a return visit after determining whether the householder has read the initial copies that were placed with him. Also, publisher may mention the number of languages in which magazines are published and the global extent of our activity. Our voluntary efforts serve to promote Bible education. As opportunity permits and it is appropriate, briefly explain to householder how worldwide work is carried on and that it is supported by voluntary donations. Conclude this part by encouraging all to use the new Topic for Conversation.

Song 60 and concluding prayer.

WEEK STARTING APRIL 8

Song 43

5 min: Local announcements and Theocratic News. *E. SANDIFORD*

15 min: "Presenting the Good News—More Effectively by Listening." Question-and-answer discussion of material. When considering paragraph 4, demonstrate how publisher misses a good opportunity to have a fine conversation by not being alert to householder's comments on matters of personal concern. Ask audience how it could have been handled. Thereafter, have same publisher repeat demonstration, but this time show how it should properly be done by developing a good conversation with householder.

25 min: Reaping in Proportion to Our Personal Effort. Talk and discussion based on insert article. To be handled by an elder. Make local application of material. Paragraphs and cited scriptures may be read as time permits.

Song 128 and concluding prayer.

WEEK STARTING APRIL 15

Song 28 *BS*

10 min: Local announcements and accounts report. Include Society's expression of appreciation for financial support of worldwide work. Commend brothers for generous support of local congregation needs. *CM*

15 min: "Encourage Others to Read *The Watchtower*." Enthusiastic talk followed by two or three prepared brief expressions from publishers stating why they appreciate *The Watchtower* and how they have benefited from reading it regularly. *TA*

20 min: "Start and Conclude Meetings on Time." Question-and-answer discussion. Read all paragraphs.

Song 8 and concluding prayer.

WEEK STARTING APRIL 22

Song 118 *RG*

10 min: Local announcements. Review cleaning arrangements for the Kingdom Hall. Help brothers appreciate the need for cooperation in keeping Jehovah's place of worship clean.—For additional information see article "Do You Respect Your Kingdom Hall?" on page 7 of the August 1989 *Our Kingdom Ministry*. *RM*

15 min: "Make Good Use of Our Publications." Coverage by questions and answers. Have two demonstrations showing how to determine whether householder has sincere interest before offering literature at the door.

10 min: The Work of Attendants. Interview brother who oversees attendants. Discuss their duties and how the congregation can cooperate with the attendants. (See *Organized to Accomplish Our Ministry*, pages 63-4, and *Our Kingdom Ministry*, December 1989, page 7.) Mention that at times attendants may make parents aware of the need to keep down disturbances made by their children. Attendants also see to the comfort and orderliness at our meetings, take the count of those present, help older and infirm ones to seats, and so forth.

10 min: Using Tracts in the Ministry. Show brothers the different tracts that are available, and discuss different ways in which they can be used. Have audience comment on how they make use of tracts and perhaps relate some experiences they have had. In January we discussed how tracts could be used to start studies. Have experiences related as to results with this approach. See also *Index* heading "Tracts" for locating other experiences in using them.

Song 181 and concluding prayer.

WEEK STARTING APRIL 29

Song 221

5 min: Local announcements. *DV*

15 min: Balanced Use of Leisure Time. Interview several youths about leisure time. Use material from the *Young People Ask* book, chapters 35 through 37. Brother handling interview may ask: Why do you need to be selective in what you read? How can you choose appropriate reading material? What are some potentially damaging effects of TV viewing, and how can it be controlled? Why are you not missing out on anything by not

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Reaping in Proportion to Our Personal Effort

¹ Jehovah God has demonstrated his love for humankind in many ways. Jesus highlighted God's surpassing love, pointing out to an assembled crowd that God "makes his sun rise upon wicked people and good and makes it rain upon righteous people and unrighteous." (Matt. 5:43-48) On another occasion, Jesus identified his Father's most outstanding expression of love—the sacrifice of his only-begotten Son, whom God gave for our salvation. (John 3:16) Jesus admonished his listeners to respond appreciatively to Jehovah's love. Are we endeavoring to do that?

² In order for us to express full appreciation and gain lasting benefits from Jehovah's love, we must come to know him. (John 17:3) We need counsel and direction as to how we can serve him acceptably. Jehovah has demonstrated his loving concern by giving us his inspired Word, the Bible, and by raising up his marvelous organization, through which we receive counsel and instruction. (Matt. 24:45-47; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17) As Jehovah's dedicated people, we have been taught in his way. But are we showing by our personal effort that we are appreciative of Jehovah's love? Are we heeding his counsel so as to be pleasing to him and thereby benefiting ourselves? (Isa. 48:17; Jas. 1:22) The apostle Paul wrote at 1 Corinthians 3:8: "Now he that plants and he that waters are one, but *each person will receive his own reward according to his own labor.*"

³ Yes, we must work at doing what God wants us to do. Not everyone progresses spiritually at the same pace. There are many factors that can have a bearing on our progress, and it would be unwise to make discouraging comparisons. However, of vital importance is the *individual effort* we make. What can we do to draw closer to the organization? Are there areas where we can improve in accepting our personal responsibilities as Christians? What effort will it take to give better support to congregation activities? Are there points that we need to apply in the way of instructions that the organization gives us?—1 Tim. 4:16.

IMITATE FAITHFUL ONES

⁴ The good news of the Kingdom has been preached for decades by faithful brothers and sisters. These faithful ones, like Paul, are worthy of imitation. (1 Cor. 11:1) They have responded to God's love and have reaped many benefits because of their hard work and their personal efforts to follow Bible counsel. They compose a solid core of active workers in the congregation, not shirking

their personal responsibility. We can see the fruitage of their individual labors.—Rom. 1:13; 2 Cor. 3:1-3.

⁵ Now, tens of thousands of new ones are flocking to the organization each year. (Isa. 60:8) They too are serious about laboring to become full-grown spiritual persons, and their zeal in the preaching work is worthy of commendation. They benefit from seeing how Jehovah blesses those who work hard in his service. The example of mature brothers and sisters helps new ones appreciate that this is no time to slack the hand or let up in our service to God. Whether new ones or experienced publishers, are we continuing to grow spiritually, accepting our personal Christian responsibilities and taking advantage of all theocratic provisions?

APPLYING WHAT WE LEARN

⁶ Long before James wrote that we should be 'doers of the work,' Moses said to the Jews: "You must apply these words." (Jas. 1:25; Deut. 11:18) So knowledge in itself was not enough. The Jews needed to apply the words of the Law in obedience to Jehovah. This basic principle remains the same. Jesus, the Son of God, surely knew the importance of obedience. (John 8:28) He said at Matthew 7:24: "Everyone that hears these sayings of mine and does them will be likened to a discreet man."

⁷ Are we applying what we learn at circuit assemblies? Do we appreciate why it is so vital at this time to stay awake and keep our senses? Are we alert to the subtle attacks and snares laid by the Devil? Do we appreciate the counsel and warnings given us repeatedly by the organization concerning the need for moral and spiritual cleanness in the congregation? To what degree are we individually applying what we hear?—Jas. 1:23-25.

⁸ The current special assembly day program emphasizes our need to be holy, as Jehovah is holy. (1 Pet. 1:14-16) Holiness means religious cleanness or purity, sacredness. It denotes a state of being set aside to the service of God. We have been entrusted with the ministry of the good news. Hence, we must be clean spiritually, morally, and physically so as to be worthy of carrying the holy Word of truth. This requires that we pay more than the usual attention to ourselves. (Heb. 2:1) As we do so, we will reap blessings in proportion to our personal effort.

BENEFIT FROM PERSONAL STUDY

⁹ Personal study helps us to build a strong faith, and it deepens our appreciation for the truth. It

gives us confidence and equips us to speak with authority. It gives us insight and discernment and helps us to put on the new personality. (Col. 1:9-11) However, productive study takes time and effort, and there is no shortcut to acquiring accurate knowledge and spiritual depth. What we put into study is what we will get out of it.—2 Cor. 9:6, 7; Gal. 6:7.

¹⁰ Do we set aside sufficient time each week to prepare for congregation meetings? This is one way we can show appreciation for the spiritual diet Jehovah provides through the faithful and discreet slave. Proper preparation for the meetings helps us stick to the schedule for reading and studying God's Word. Do we set aside time each week to do our Bible reading as set forth in the program for the Theocratic Ministry School? It takes just a few minutes each day to read and meditate on the material. The Service Meeting helps keep us alert to ways in which we can make our public ministry effective. Do we prepare, giving special thought to how we can use this material in the ministry? And do we make an effort to use it right away? Specific arrangements should be made to prepare for the *Watchtower* Study and for the Congregation Book Study. Are we doing that?

PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS

¹¹ We can benefit more from the meetings when we participate in them. Preparation for the meetings and then making the effort to participate keeps us attentive during the meetings and makes it easier for us to benefit from the comments of others. Many still remember the hard work they put into their first comment at a meeting or their first student talk in the Theocratic Ministry School. Although a great measure of nervousness should have subsided, do we continue to work hard at making our spiritual growth manifest to all? (1 Tim. 4:15) Others benefit and are encouraged by our comments. If we are well prepared, having studied the material that will be considered at the meetings, our meaningful share in them will incite others to love and fine works.—Heb. 10:23-25.

¹² Our comments should not be long and complicated. Usually it is best to make brief comments that directly answer the questions that are posed or help clarify the application of a scripture. If we have prepared well, we will be able to comment in our own words. When we do that, the benefits to ourselves and to others are far greater. Why? Because it requires us to think about what we are saying and explain the point as we understand it. This may make it easier for others to understand the material. Also, it will help us to remember the information for use on another occasion.

¹³ Our Christian ministry is a treasure of service. (2 Cor. 4:7) Do you view it that way? Through the ministry, we have the privilege of expressing our faith to others. Jesus said that out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. (Luke 6:45) The personal effort we put forth to have a full share in the field ministry allows us to reap many benefits. Our understanding of the truth is sharpened, and we develop greater ability to use the Bible. We have the joy of bringing the truth to others and helping them to learn of their Grand Creator. We stand as witnesses to the rightness of God's rule and his sovereignty. We are happy because we know that we are pleasing Jehovah, being made over into his likeness and doing his will.—Matt. 5:48.

¹⁴ If we continually measure our personal effort, our worship of Jehovah will never become token service. What does that mean? It means that we will not become halfhearted in complying with God's will, rendering only an appearance of service to him or a minimum amount without genuine heartfelt devotion and effort. Our service to Jehovah must be wholehearted. We have a Scriptural obligation to give our all in his service. (Col. 3:23, 24) True, circumstances vary, and Jehovah does not require more of us than we are able to do. However, what we can do, he expects us to do! (Matt. 22:37) Since fallen human nature is inclined to be self-sparing, it is good to examine ourselves from time to time and see where we can make improvements in our service to God. Are we accustomed to doing that?

¹⁵ Vigilance must be exercised if we are to avoid allowing personal pursuits and desires to prevent us from giving our best in Jehovah's service. Pleasures, hobbies, and recreational activities must be kept in their place. Also, we must guard against the tendency to become overly involved in secular activities. Heeding Jesus' counsel at Matthew 6:22, 23, we will no doubt be able to put forth more effort in pursuing spiritual interests and reap accordingly.

¹⁶ As we continue to work hard at putting on the new personality, we will accept our own responsibility in applying counsel and suggestions that we receive at congregation meetings, assemblies, conventions, and through the publications. May each one of us study diligently, actively participate in meetings, and share in this great disciple-making work to the extent our personal circumstances will allow. By thus responding appreciatively to God's love, we can be assured of reaping bountiful spiritual rewards now and maintain the solid hope of life eternal in Jehovah's new world.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

Closed-book review on material covered in Theocratic Ministry School assignments for the weeks of January 7 to April 22, 1991. 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. Abstaining from blood means not taking it into your body in any form or manner. [pe chap. 25 pars. 22, 23]
2. When Paul became a Christian, it was easy for him to do what was right. [pe chap. 26 par. 15]
3. Because of limited means of travel and communication in the first century, the Kingdom message was not spread widely. [Weekly Bible reading; see si p. 226 (1983 ed., p. 224).]
4. Money is the root of all sorts of evil things. [Weekly Bible reading; see w84 7/1 p. 29.]
5. Easter was not celebrated by the early Christians. [pe chap. 25 par. 16]
6. The seasons follow as a consequence of the earth's being tilted at a 23.5 degree angle to the plane of its travel around the sun. [si p. 280 par. 14 (p. 279 par. 14)]
7. The expression "various baptisms" refers to the ritualistic baptisms of cups and pitchers practiced by the Jews. (Heb. 9:10) [Weekly Bible reading; see w91 2/15 p. 24.]
8. The apostle Paul wrote that those who did not work should not eat. [Weekly Bible reading; see w91 1/15 p. 23.]
9. Being "kept safe through childbearing" means that childbearing may re-

sult in eternal salvation. (1 Tim. 2:15) [Weekly Bible reading; see w91 1/15 p. 30.]

10. Time moves in two directions, forward and backward. [si p. 278 par. 4 (p. 277 par. 4)]

Answer the following questions:

11. Why is covetousness equated with idolatry? (Col. 3:5) [Weekly Bible reading; see w78 4/1 p. 21.] *worship of self*
12. Who is "the man of lawlessness"? (2 Thess. 2:3) [Weekly Bible reading; see w88 1/15 p. 12.] *clergy*
13. Whom does "the sacred secret" primarily involve? (1 Tim. 3:16) [Weekly Bible reading; see w88 9/1 p. 12.] *JC*
14. How can we show God that we really mean what we say in our prayers? [pe chap. 27 par. 11] *act in accord*
15. In what two chapters does Paul list the qualifications of overseers? [Weekly Bible reading] *1 Tim 3 Titus 1*
16. What is Tartarus? [Weekly Bible reading; see w91 3/15 p. 31.] *darkness*
17. Who were the "glorious ones" mentioned at Jude 8? [Weekly Bible reading; see w91 4/15.] *angels and elders*
18. What are the names of the seven congregations in Asia Minor to which John wrote? [si p. 265 par. 8 (p. 262 par. 9)] *Ephesus, Pergamon, Smyrna, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea*

19. Where in God's Word do we find instructions as to what should be our attitude toward apostates? [Weekly Bible reading; see w91 4/15.]
2 Jo 10
- Provide the word or phrase needed to complete the following statements:*
20. Brothers are to treat older women in the congregation as women and younger women as sisters with all chasteness. [Weekly Bible reading; see w73 p. 540.]
21. The Promised Land was about 300 miles long and about 50-35 miles wide. [si p. 270 par. 2 (p. 269 par. 2)]
22. The lunar year is governed by the moon and the solar year by the sun. [si p. 281 pars. 18, 20 (p. 280 pars. 18, 20)]
23. To be truly attractive, a Christian woman must not only dress modestly but also have modesty. [Weekly Bible reading; see w91 3/15 p. 30.]
true Christian
24. The pivotal date for the Hebrew Scriptures is 539, and it is 29 for the Christian Greek Scriptures. [si pp. 282-3 pars. 28, 30 (p. 282 pars. 29, 31)]
25. The Julian calendar was introduced by Julius Caesar in 46 BCE and the Gregorian calendar in 1500 CE. [si p. 281 par. 21 (p. 280 par. 21)]
- Select the correct answers in each of the following statements:*
26. The festival of (unleavened bread; weeks; booths) was also known as Pentecost. [si p. 280 par. 17 (p. 279 par. 17)]
27. All of Jesus' 11 faithful apostles came from (Galilee; Samaria; Judea). [si p. 274 par. 11 (p. 271 par. 11)]
28. The patriarchs Abraham and Isaac resided for many years in the (Shephelah; Negeb; Arabah). [si p. 275 par. 20 (p. 274 par. 20)]
29. Those who had left their first love were in the congregation of (Smyrna; Pergamum; Ephesus). [si p. 265 par. 9 (p. 262 par. 10)]
30. The congregation charged with being poor, blind, naked, and lukewarm was (Laodicea; Sardis; Thyatira). [si p. 265 par. 10 (p. 262 par. 11)]
- Match the following scriptures to the statements listed below:*
- 1 Thess. 5:8; 2 Tim. 1:7; Heb. 13:17; Jas. 1:2, 3; 1 Pet. 3:7
31. For Christians to keep integrity, they need this spiritual armor. [Weekly Bible reading; see w91 1/15 p. 22.]
1 Thess 5:8
32. Why Christians should submit to those taking the lead. [Weekly Bible reading; see w91 2/15 p. 25.] Heb 13:17
33. Christians can be happy despite trials. [Weekly Bible reading; see w91 3/15 p. 23.] James 1:2, 3
34. What results if husbands fail to accord their wives honor. [Weekly Bible reading; see w91 3/15 p. 23.] 1 Pet 3:7
35. The kind of spirit that God gives his ministers. [Weekly Bible reading; see w91 1/15 p. 31.] 2 Tim 1:7

Announcements

● Literature offer for April and May: *Watchtower* subscription. One-year or six-month subscriptions to semimonthly editions are available. Subscriptions to monthly editions for one year only can also be obtained. Also, two magazines and a copy of any brochure, except the *School* brochure, may be offered. **June:** *Mankind's Search for God*. **July and August:** Any 32-page brochure, except the *School* brochure.

● District convention badge cards for 1991 in English and Spanish will automatically be included with the April literature shipments. It will not be necessary to request these. Based on the size of each congregation, lots of 25 will be shipped. If additional badge cards are needed by the congregation, these should be requested on a Literature Request Form (S(d)-14). It is necessary to request plastic badge card holders for any in the congregation that desire them.

● Where practical, elders should intensify arrangements for congregations to share in evening witnessing as daylight hours increase.

● Since 1989 we have been producing an updated version of the book *Reasoning From the Scriptures*. The copyright date shown on page 2 is 1989.

● As of January 1, 1991, the Estonian language has been added to our list of semimonthly editions of *The Watchtower* available by mail.

● New Publications Available:

Mankind's Search for God
—Cebuano, Iloko, Tagalog

How Can Blood Save Your Life?
—Cebuano, Iloko, Tagalog

Watch Tower Publications Index 1986-1988
—Japanese

How to Find the Road to Paradise (for Muslims)
—Arabic

● New Audiocassettes Available:

The First of Samuel (set of two audiocassettes)
—Italian

The Second of Samuel (set of two audiocassettes)
—Italian

The First of Chronicles (set of two audiocassettes)
—Italian

Meetings (Cont'd)

copying worldly youths? Why could copying them be dangerous? What are some ways you have found to enjoy wholesome recreation? Why do we need to be balanced in this area?

15 min: Preach From House to House. Enthusiastic and encouraging talk based on *Organized to Accomplish Our Ministry*, pages 84-7. Make local application, calling attention to arrangements congregation has for group witnessing from house to house. Point out importance of training new publishers to be effective in house-to-house ministry.

10 min: Local needs or talk on "Perfect Government at Last!" on pages 20-4 of December 22, 1990, *Awake!* Song 12 and concluding prayer.

Fulfilling Our Kingdom Ministry in the Congregation

¹ Through Jesus Christ, the Head of the Christian congregation, Jehovah has delegated responsibility to a "faithful steward," or house manager. (Luke 12:42, 43) This arrangement has made it possible for us to receive printed direction on how "we ought to conduct ourselves in God's household." (1 Tim. 3:15) Our principal tool for finding what has been printed is the *Watch Tower Publications Index*. How can it assist you?

² Are you an elder? There are two general headings that deal with your responsibilities: "Elders" and "Overseers." The section "Elders" has most of the references leading to information on assisting various ones in the congregation, how to give counsel, the relationships within the body of elders, elders' responsibilities, and so forth. References to qualifications are found under "Overseers," since that heading is the term the Bible uses when discussing these. Also under "Overseers" are official assignments, such as "presiding overseer," "service overseer," and "secretary." The main heading "Congregations" will also yield helpful information.

³ You who are ministerial servants also perform a vital role in the congregation. The heading "Ministerial Servants" lists information on your qualifications and responsibilities. You will also find references to material on the

importance of service privileges that are open to you and on how to reach out for further responsibility.

⁴ Both elders and ministerial servants have privileges in connection with meetings in the congregation. The heading "Meetings" offers references for every aspect of the subject, including thrilling examples under "efforts to attend." Of course, there are main headings for each of the meetings as well.

⁵ Psalm 68:11 says: "The women telling the good news are a large army." Like male members of the congregation, sisters also must adhere to proper conduct for them in God's household. At times questions arise about subjects such as when a sister must wear a head covering or what should be done when no brother capable of conducting a meeting or representing the congregation in prayer is present. The heading "Women" can direct you to information on these subjects. Also helpful are the headings "Sisters," "Head Covering," and "Prayer."

⁶ The concluding part of 1 Timothy 3:15 refers to the Christian congregation as "a pillar and support of the truth." It is our privilege to support the truth as we conduct ourselves properly in God's household, fulfilling our Kingdom ministry within the congregation.

Encourage Others to Read *The Watchtower*

¹ During April and May, we will want to encourage lovers of truth to read *The Watchtower* regularly. Our own experience has convinced us that of all the magazines published today, it alone supplies the vital spiritual food needed by those who are sighing and groaning over the deplorable conditions on earth.—Ezek. 9:4.

² *The Watchtower* has helped us understand Bible prophecy that proves we are living in the time of the end and that God's Kingdom will soon bring peace to the earth. Our genuine concern for the lives of others moves us to share this marvelous hope with them. And we are encouraged by seeing that many honesthearted ones are being gathered for salvation.—John 10:16.

³ "Is It Later Than You Think?" is the thought-provoking title of one of the articles in the April 1, 1991, issue of *The Watchtower*. The April 15 issue features an article entitled "When Will Lasting Peace Really Come?" These articles can be tied in nicely with the current Topic for Conversation, "World Peace, Is It Near?" To determine whether the household is genuinely interested in the good news, draw him into a warm and friendly Bible discussion. This re-

quires advance preparation and readiness to show how articles in the current magazine will help the household to widen his understanding of the subject under discussion.

⁴ We are not interested in sending the magazines to just anyone who will give us his address for mailing. Remember that our commission is to preach the good news and make disciples. (Matt. 24:14; 28:19, 20) If the person is one who enjoys reading just certain articles occasionally, it may be best to keep his name on your magazine route and make regular personal visits. Your regular contact with the individual will allow you to cultivate the interest and eventually determine when it is appropriate to arrange for him to receive *The Watchtower* through the mail.

⁵ April and May will offer many opportunities to spread the good news of Jehovah's Kingdom from house to house as well as in informal conversations with people we meet. We can be confident that Jehovah will continue to bless our diligent efforts to find and provide needed spiritual nourishment for the meek ones in our territory.

More Effectively by Listening

¹ To be effective in our ministry, we must recognize that no two persons are alike. Each one has different experiences in life as well as different personal concerns and desires. The challenge is to personalize the Kingdom message, that is, show the person we speak to what it means for him as an individual. To do this effectively, we must also listen attentively.

² Many publishers tactfully use questions in their introductions, and this helps involve the householder in a conversation. Viewpoint questions that do not embarrass the householder are most effective. But when a householder speaks, it is vital that we listen to what he is saying. Listening manifests neighbor love and respect, and by so doing we gain insight into the person's thinking. Knowing a person's circumstances enables us to empathize, putting ourselves in his place. We can then share with him the comfort and hope from the Bible.

BE ADAPTABLE

³ The apostle Paul admonished: "Study how best to talk with each person you meet." (Col. 4:6, *New English Bible*) Though we do not know in advance precisely what an individual may say, we are familiar with the problems that many people face today. Thus, we can "study" and be mentally prepared to respond to a variety of situations.

⁴ For example, we may have prepared to converse on the subject of world peace, but the householder

mentions that he has lost his job. Should we ignore this comment? Undoubtedly, the matter of providing for his household weighs on his mind and heart. How could you respond to his needs? You could empathize with him, showing genuine concern for his situation. Then kindly direct his attention to scriptures that show how God's government will provide satisfying employment and all our needs.—Isa. 65:17, 21, 22, 24.

⁵ Perhaps we learn that the individual or a member of his family was recently the victim of a crime or has suffered some injustice. Our sympathetic concern and personal interest in these circumstances may soften the person's heart, making it possible to show him that Jehovah God is very much aware of these painful problems and will soon take action to remove all wickedness.—See *Reasoning From the Scriptures*, pages 10, 12, 229-31.

⁶ A poor relationship between individuals often results because they have not communicated well. When one talks, the other party may not truly pay attention with his mind and heart. Such poor listening habits can result in misunderstandings or missed opportunities to help someone. By cultivating the good habit of listening respectfully, we can more effectively present the good news, reflect Jehovah's unselfish interest in others, and help others develop a good relationship with our loving Creator and his people.—Jas. 1:19; *g74 11/22 pp. 21-3.*

On Time (Cont'd)

⁵ *Theocratic Ministry School:* This is a 45-minute meeting. Although the instruction talk and highlights from the Bible reading are not stopped when the time is up, the brothers assigned these parts must stay within their allotted time. If this is not done, private counsel should be given. Also, counsel and remarks by the school overseer should stay within the prescribed time. Time can be saved if all the students are seated near the platform and if each one promptly concludes his talk when the allotted time is up.—See *Theocratic Ministry School Schedule for 1991*.

⁶ *Service Meeting:* This is also a 45-minute meeting. Together with the Theocratic Ministry School and songs and prayers, the entire program should not exceed one hour and forty-five minutes. Brothers with parts on the Service Meeting should adhere to the time allotted. Parts to be covered by questions and answers

need only a brief introduction. There is no need to add extensive introductory information. Demonstrations should be well rehearsed, and the participants should be ready and in place so as to make good use of the time allotted for the part.

⁷ *Congregation Book Study:* This is a one-hour meeting, including the opening and concluding prayers. All the paragraphs are to be read. To ensure ending the meeting on time, the conductor will apportion the material so as to avoid rushing through the last part of the lesson or finishing too early. The conductor needs to be discerning as to how much time is spent on each paragraph. The main points should be clearly understood. The conductor's art of teaching will enable him to meet any challenge in this regard.—Titus 1:9.

⁸ *Meetings for Field Service:* These should not exceed 15 minutes, including making territory assignments and concluding with prayer. Those

♦ Antigua had a new peak of 274 publishers in November, a 14-percent increase.

♦ Lebanon held its district convention in November with 3,794 present, and 111 were baptized.

♦ Outstanding in the November report from Peru is the total of 8,440 pioneers. This figure represents 24 percent of the Kingdom publishers in that country.

JANUARY SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	230	129.9	70.8	56.5	5.8
Pios.	64,886	81.7	33.1	27.3	2.7
Aux. Pios.	24,764	58.5	24.3	17.2	1.6
Pubs.	760,914	9.8	5.9	3.9	0.5
TOTAL	850,794				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 3,038

This report shows a new peak of 850,794 publishers. This is the first time since 1983 that a peak in publishers has been reached during the month of January. We also reached a new peak of 578,618 home Bible studies. This fine report reflects Jehovah's blessing upon our united efforts.—Phil. 4:23.

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*:

April 1:	Page 12, par. 15, to page 14, par. 26
April 8:	Page 15, par. 1, to page 17, par. 11
April 15:	Page 18, par. 1, to page 21, par. 11
April 22:	Page 22, par. 1, to page 27, par. 14
April 29:	Page 27, par. 1, to page 30, par. 16

going out in service want to start their field service activity as soon as possible. The conductor will start the meeting on time, not delaying until a larger group is present. Also, once territory assignments are made and the meeting is concluded with prayer, the group can depart promptly to the field. This is especially important for pioneers who may be present.

⁹ All of us can benefit from meetings that start and end on time. This is especially appreciated by those who have unbelieving mates who expect them to be home at a certain time. When arranging for transportation to and from meetings or when stating the time they will return home, those from divided families would do well to take into account the time they need before and after meetings for fellowship, picking up literature, and so forth. Unquestionably, starting and ending meetings on time contributes to doing things "decently and by arrangement."—1 Cor. 14:40.