

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

May 1995

For United States of America

Vol. 38, No. 5

A Special Kingdom News for Everyone

¹ Starting April 24, we began general distribution of the special *Kingdom News* that has stirred the interest of concerned people everywhere! Its message is not only timely but also *urgent*. Publishers in every congregation have expressed wholehearted support, wanting to put this message into the hands of thousands of people. Are you reaching out for a full share?

² A consignment of *Kingdom News* was sent to each congregation, supplying approximately 50 for each publisher and 250 for each pioneer. How many have you been able to distribute? If you have not been able to do as much as you had hoped, have you considered ways to do more before the distribution ends on May 14? What about enrolling as an auxiliary pioneer? Can you take advantage of extra meetings for service during the week, such as those for evening witnessing?

³ The elders will be carefully reviewing territory coverage. If it will not be possible for the assigned congrega-

tion to work some portions, the elders should contact neighboring congregations to enlist help. Our wholehearted efforts, along with good cooperation between congregations, should get the job done.

⁴ You have likely experienced extra joy in this work because so many have been able to participate, including new publishers and youngsters. Hopefully, this spirit of joy will be sustained, encouraging all to follow through by returning to visit those who have responded favorably. We were urged to keep good house-to-house records, taking note of those who manifested interest. The latter part of May would be a fine time to concentrate on making return visits with a view to starting new studies.

⁵ What can we say when we go back? You might find it effective to say: "You may recall the printed information I left with you recently; I hope you had an opportunity to read it and give the matter some thought. Its message has certain-

ly stirred up a lot of discussion in our community, since it touches on vital issues that confront all mankind." Refer to some of the thought-provoking statements on the second page, and then ask: "What do you think we need to do to make sure we are prepared for what the future will bring?" Allow for response. If interest is shown, discuss other points on pages 2-4 of the *Kingdom News*, and offer a Bible study or, if that is not possible, the latest magazines.

⁶ If you work in another congregation's territory, be sure to turn over the names of any interested ones you locate so that return visits can be made by the publishers of that congregation. Likewise, if you are given some calls for follow-up, do not fail to return promptly.

⁷ The special distribution of this *Kingdom News* has created excitement and motivated all of us to intensify our efforts in the Kingdom-preaching work. We can be confident that it will be a resounding success, heightening the awareness of people everywhere of Jehovah's great name and purpose. (Isa. 12:4, 5) The more we are able to do, the greater will be our joy.—Ps. 126:3.

Following Our Exemplar as Light Bearers

¹ Jesus declared concerning himself: "I am the light of the world." By following his example, Jesus' disciples also were "the light of the world." (Matt. 5:14) As "the light of the world," Jesus could say that all who follow him will possess "the light of life." (John 8:12) That makes us spiritual light bearers, who must never allow anything to hide or obscure that light.

² Jehovah's organization provides training to show us how to be effective light bearers. If we closely follow the counsel and direction we receive, we will be able to enlighten people of all sorts concerning Kingdom truth. (1 Tim. 4:6) Serving as light bearers involves not only talking the truth at every opportunity but also maintaining fine conduct as Christians. Our Exemplar's conduct was above reproach. As his followers, we must demonstrate that Christianity is our everyday way of life. (Eph. 5:9; Titus 2:7, 8, 10) We must produce fine works that others can see, moving them to glorify God.—Matt. 5:16.

³ One Witness encountered an unusual request while going from house to house. The man of the house and his wife were quite ill, but they needed to deposit some money in the bank. They asked if the Witness would do it. He agreed and was given \$2,000 in cash to take to the bank! When he returned, he asked: "How could you trust me without even knowing me?" The answer: "We know, and everyone else knows, that Jehovah's Witnesses are the only ones to trust." How thankful we can be that our adhering closely to the moral principles of the Bible produces such a God-honoring reputation!

⁴ A first-grade teacher explained to her class why one six-year-old Witness student was not participating in coloring Halloween pictures. The teacher said she was very proud of her for having the courage to be different because of what she believes. If we firmly believe something, the teacher commented, we should have the courage to stand up for it. That night the teach-

er analyzed her own beliefs and had to admit that she had not shown the same courage to stand up for her convictions. The next day she announced that she was not going to involve her class in any future holiday celebrations, some of which she did not believe in herself!

⁵ Jehovah's people are eager to let their light shine, no matter where they are. The exemplary conduct of youngsters at school has favorably impressed schoolmates and teachers. Adult Witnesses who display fine conduct in the neighborhood cause others to speak well of the Kingdom message. Informal witnessing under a multitude of circumstances attracts sincere people who want to learn more. Even our diligence and honesty in secular work give a witness. Yes, no matter where we are or what we are doing, we can arouse interest in the truth.

⁶ By keeping our eyes on the flawless life-pattern of our great Exemplar, we can continue to perfect our skills as his disciples. Copying his example will ensure that our light "shines upon all."—Matt. 5:15; 1 Pet. 2:21.

SERVICE MEETINGS FOR MAY

Week Starting May 1

Song 43

10 min: Local announcements and selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry*.

15 min: "Good News for the Meek Ones." Discuss article with audience, and then have one or two presentations demonstrated.

20 min: "A Special *Kingdom News* for Everyone." Talk and audience discussion by service overseer. Review what has been accomplished so far in distribution of *Kingdom News*, especially noting the good support given to service arrangements and participation by new ones in the field service for the first time. Report on the coverage of territory; explain what needs to be done if help is requested by another congregation. Encourage all to make an extra effort to distribute their allotment of *Kingdom News*. Stress importance of keeping a record of interest and making return visits in an effort to start Bible studies. Have the suggested presentation demonstrated.

Song 55 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 8

Song 61

15 min: Local announcements. "You Too Can Enjoy Good Experiences!" As

time permits, invite audience to relate encouraging experiences enjoyed while presenting *Kingdom News*.

15 min: Local needs. Or a talk on the article "How Christians Cope With Public Reproach" in *The Watchtower* of April 1, 1995, pages 26-9.

15 min: "Why Keep a Record of Not-at-Homes?" Questions and answers. Song 60 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 15

Song 54

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

15 min: "Following Our Exemplar as Light Bearers." Questions and answers.

20 min: "1995 'Joyful Praisers' District Convention." Question-and-answer coverage of paragraphs 1-16. Song 45 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 22

Song 66

10 min: Local announcements. Encourage auxiliary pioneering during the summer months. Review the qualifications outlined in the book *Organized to Accomplish Our Ministry*, pages 113-14.

15 min: "Marking That Brings Deliverance." Audience discussion. Include one or two demonstrations to show how return visits can be made.

20 min: "1995 'Joyful Praisers' District Convention." Question-and-answer coverage of paragraphs 17-28. Review "District Convention Reminders." As time permits, review pertinent details from "1995 District

Convention Simplification," which appeared in the February 1995 *Kingdom Ministry*.

Song 74 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 29

Song 79

15 min: Local announcements. Offer suggestions that will encourage publishers to try to read a Scripture text as part of their presentation at the doors. Many people have respect for the Bible and are willing to listen when it is read. Its counsel carries weight and will motivate someone who is sincere. It may be appropriate to have the Bible in hand when approaching the door. Texts should be read with feeling and fluency.—See *School Guidebook*, pages 32-3, paragraphs 12-15.

12 min: Question Box. Questions and answers. Explain why we benefit more from the meetings when we prepare in advance and take all the assigned study material with us.

18 min: Offer *Creation Book* During June. Relate expressions made by interested persons who were impressed by the book *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* (See *The Watchtower*, March 15, 1987, page 32; May 1, 1986, page 32; September 1, 1986, page 31.) Point out illustrations on pages 6, 236-7, 243, and 245, and show how these might be used to start conversations. Have a capable publisher demonstrate a presentation that explains the choice each one must make to gain everlasting life, using the thoughts and scriptures on pages 250-1. Remind everyone to pick up copies for use in service this weekend.

Song 63 and concluding prayer.

CONGREGATION BOOK STUDY

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

	From:	To:
May 1:	p. 118, ¶ 14	p. 120, ¶ 5
May 8:	p. 122, ¶ 6	p. 124, ¶ 16
May 15:	p. 124, ¶ 17	p. 127, ¶ 29
May 22:	p. 128, ¶ 30	p. 131, ¶ 9
May 29:	p. 132, ¶ 10	p. 134, ¶ 20

FEBRUARY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:	Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bt.St.
Sp'l Pios.	160	121.4	71.7	52.7 5.6
Pios.	74,436	73.2	32.0	23.6 2.6
Aux. Pios.	17,622	57.1	25.4	15.9 1.5
Pubs.	812,669	9.4	5.5	3.6 0.4
TOTAL	904,887			Baptized: 1,880

You Too Can Enjoy Good Experiences!

Some publishers always seem to have interesting, encouraging experiences to relate about a nice call or a return visit that has brought them much joy. Good experiences usually do not come by accident. Most are the result of diligent and sustained effort. They are not necessarily limited to publishers who are more fluent or more capable.

Here are some of the things that have been observed in those who have the most success: (1) They share in field service on a regular basis, usually several times each week, which assures them of many oppor-

tunities to make contact with interested persons; (2) they maintain a positive attitude toward householders, not concluding in advance that they will not respond; (3) they have an outgoing manner, displaying a warm, genuine interest in those who listen; (4) they are diligent and persistent in calling back on return visits as well as not-at-homes; and (5) they have the goal of starting Bible studies.

After analyzing your activity, perhaps you can see how you can enjoy more of those delightful experiences that do so much to make the ministry productive and satisfying.

1995 "Joyful Praisers" District Convention

¹ How many reasons do we have to be joyful? Probably few of us have tried to list all of them. Despite living in a world of turmoil and uncertainty, we have so many reasons to be joyful. As announced in the January 1995 *Our Kingdom Ministry*, "Joyful Praisers" is the encouraging theme for the 1995 district conventions.

² We praise Jehovah because he taught us the truth. (Isa. 54:13; John 8:32) In turn, we joyfully share the truth with all who are searching for security and happiness. (Ezek. 9:4; Acts 20:35) Our Christian brotherhood also brings us joy. A loving spiritual family brings contentment and happiness. These are just a few of the reasons for our joy that impels us to praise Jehovah. The convention talks and demonstrations will draw our attention to additional Scriptural reasons for joy in these troubled last days.

³ **A Three-Day Convention:** Have you made arrangements with your employer to get time off in order to be in attendance for all three days of the convention? Parents of school-age children who will be attending one of the conventions while school is still in session should respectfully inform teachers that the children will be absent from school on Friday for this important part of their religious worship. Where is the convention nearest you? The February 15, 1995, *Watchtower* listed the dates and locations for all 181 conventions in the United States branch territory. By now your congregation secretary has informed you of the details for your congregation. In addition to English, there will be conventions in Chinese, French, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and American Sign Language.

⁴ The program will begin on Friday at 9:40 a.m. and conclude on Sunday at approximately 3:50 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday, the program will start at 9:30 a.m. Doors will open at 8:00 a.m. Only those with specific work assignments will be permitted to enter earlier.

⁵ **Will You Be in Attendance?:** We are urged to attend all three days of the convention. Why is that? Jehovah wants us to be there. Today our faith and spiritual health are under intense bombardment. Paul counseled concerning "not forsaking the gathering of ourselves together" at a time when Christians in Judea were experiencing great pressure. (Heb. 3:12, 13; 10:25) The Philippians were living "among a crooked and twisted generation." Yet,

they were "shining as illuminators in the world." (Phil. 2:15) Why were these first-century Christians different? Because they obediently followed the leadings of holy spirit that directed them to meet together "to incite to love and fine works."—Heb. 10:24.

⁶ The world would influence us otherwise, weakening our desire to meet with our brothers and praise Jehovah. This summer we are invited to yield to Jehovah's spirit and enjoy all three days of the convention. Are we determined to be in attendance with our entire family? We need to fortify our love and faith on a regular basis. Jehovah has provided annual conventions to help us in this regard.

⁷ **Take Home a Treasure:** How can you gain the most good from the convention? In one word the answer is "concentration." This is no easy task in today's high-strung, fast-moving society. Energetic young people may find concentration difficult, but it is a challenge all of us face when attending a district convention. We will find concentration to be easier if we plan ahead. Ask yourself, 'What is the convention theme? Meditate on it! 'Why am I going, and what will I be doing during the three days? Will my evenings be filled with recreation, or have I scheduled sufficient time for rest and review of convention highlights?'

⁸ The February 1, 1984, *Watchtower* article "Do You Meditate or Just Daydream?" offered several suggestions on how to get the most from a meeting and then drew this conclusion: "Mental discipline is perhaps the most important factor." When a speaker begins, we are usually attentive, but perhaps partway through the talk, we let our mind "slip out of gear." How can we prevent this from happening?

⁹ Suggestions offered in the past bear repeating because they work. If at all possible, try to get sufficient rest each night. This is not always easy because travel may be involved, and if you are staying in a hotel, you may not retire as soon or rest as well as at home. Good planning will usually allow you to get the needed rest.

¹⁰ Simple note-taking has proved to be an aid in concentration. If you try to take down too much information, some vital points may be missed entirely. As a suggestion, take notes with the object of presenting a summary of the program to a Bible student or a shut-in. Even though you may not have a specific individual in mind, you will have a purpose in taking notes, and after the convention

you may find occasions to present highlights of the program while witnessing informally to unbelieving family members. By taking notes and sharing what you heard, you will not quickly lose the information. Expression increases retention.

¹¹ Although food will no longer be provided, there is still considerable expense involved in the rental of the convention facility, which often includes additional cost for public-address equipment, literature, and so forth. How are these expenses covered? Through our voluntary donations, either in cash or by check made payable to "Jehovah's Witnesses." This is in harmony with Psalm 96:8 and 2 Chronicles 31:12.

¹² **Joyful Praisers Honor Jehovah by Godly Conduct:** Last year encouraging positive comments about our conduct were received from motel personnel and the employees of convention facilities. One hotel manager stated: "It is always a pleasure to accommodate the Witnesses because they are patient and cooperative and keep a close eye on their children." Another hotel director said the Witnesses seem to be happier and much more organized than other groups. Even though our convention was the largest held in the area, he said: "We have fewer complaints and difficulties than with groups a fraction of their size."

¹³ Another hotel employee disclosed that a recent convention held before ours resulted in much damage, as well as thievery, even though the facilities were fully staffed. But regarding our convention, he went on to say: "We don't have to worry about that with the Witnesses. . . . When they're here, we only have to keep one or two maintenance people on hand and that is only to repair incidental problems with machinery."

¹⁴ We wish all the reports received were similar, but sadly, that is not the case. One convention chairman observed: "After sessions, many of the teenagers congregate in large numbers in the [hotel] lobby late at night, laughing loudly and yelling. This disturbs other guests . . . , who appear irritated. Some young ones run in the corridors, slamming doors as they visit one another's rooms and talk very loudly in the rooms."

¹⁵ Another problem that has persisted over the years is the large number of brothers visiting in corridors and outside the auditorium during sessions. At one convention last year, a note from a Bible student was found in the contribution box. It read: "I have never been so shocked and appalled as I am at the noise, activity, talking, and carrying-on in the hallways during the talks . . . I'm not yet a Witness, only one who is studying and learning godly fear and respect." Surely, none of us would

want to leave the impression that we lack appreciation for Jehovah's provisions.

¹⁶ At all times we should ask ourselves: "Whom do I represent, and why am I attending this convention?" Our spirituality and godly devotion are reflected in our speech, conduct, and appreciation for spiritual provisions. (Jas. 3:13; 1 Pet. 2:2, 3, 12) Brothers who have endured years of restrictions and bans are often observed to be far more attentive and respectful at conventions, remaining in their seats, absorbed in the talks and demonstrations.

¹⁷ **Your Dress and Grooming Send a Message:** At 1 Samuel 16:7, we are reminded that "man sees what appears to the eyes; but as for Jehovah, he sees what the heart is." Thus, people often judge us on the basis of our appearance. Our dress and grooming come under close scrutiny, especially when we are attending a convention for worship and instruction in Christian living. If you are a young person going to school or if your secular employment puts you in close contact with people who follow worldly styles, it may be a challenge to adhere to Christian standards for modest attire.

¹⁸ Standards of dress and grooming vary throughout the world. Christians are expected to wear modest, well-arranged clothing. Who should determine this? Parents should be sure their teenage children do not dress like worldly youths in school. Constructive guidelines have been provided to help us make sound decisions in this sensitive area. We encourage review of the February 8, 1987, *Awake!* article "What Do Clothes Mean to You?" What was observed at some of our conventions last year?

¹⁹ After one of the "Godly Fear" District Conventions, we received this observation: "The brothers and sisters have improved considerably in their dress, grooming, and conduct at the convention this year. . . . There are still certain conditions and habits that need further improvement, however." After another convention it was reported that immodest dress was very noticeable. The report mentioned that the dress of some was offensive to others. Some outsiders present also noted the immodest dress. The clothing of some was both too revealing and too tight.

²⁰ The majority of the brothers and sisters wear modest, respectable clothing while at the convention site. Later, however, at hotels or in restaurants, some brothers and sisters, still wearing their badges, were dressed in "tank tops, old denims, short-shorts, and . . . faddish clothes not becoming to God's people." If the elders observe that some have a tendency to dress this way during leisure ac-

tivity, it would be appropriate to offer kind but firm counsel before the convention that such attire is not appropriate, especially as delegates attending a Christian convention. Please review with your Bible students who will be attending the convention the guidelines on conduct and dress outlined above.

²¹ **Hotels:** Each year considerable effort is made to provide accommodations at reduced rates in order not to impose a financial burden on anyone. Please remember to be patient and kind when dealing with hotel employees. We may be tired from travel and the line of those waiting for accommodations may be long, but your patience will not go unnoticed. It would be very beneficial for publishers to review with their Bible students the January 1995 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert regarding hotel accommodations. We must also remember the need to tip in an appropriate fashion.—June 22, 1986, *Awake!*

²² **Cameras and Recording Devices:** It is fitting to offer kindly reminders about cameras and recording equipment. Please remember, if you plan to use cameras, camcorders, or any type of recording equipment, show consideration for those around you. Moving around during the sessions or even recording from your seat could be distracting to others. No recording devices of any sort are to be connected to the electrical or sound systems, nor should equipment block aisles or walkways. Whether you decide to take pictures or record parts of the program with a camcorder or an audiocassette recorder is a personal matter. Pictures and recordings can bring back fond memories when viewed at a later date. All such equipment should be used conservatively, in a way that does not distract others or hinder you from gaining the most benefit from the program. After you return home, will there be time to review the recordings? You may find that taking notes will suffice.

²³ **Seating:** At the 1994 "Godly Fear" District Convention, did you note improvement in the matter of saving seats? Some progress has been made, but we still need to be conscious of this reminder: SEATS MAY BE SAVED ONLY FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS AND ANY WHO MAY BE TRAVELING WITH YOU IN YOUR CAR. We are there as guests of the Society. The rental of the auditorium has been paid for by voluntary donations. Would it be loving and considerate to save a seat that we are not sure will be occupied? We are sorry that it will not be possible for us to accommodate requests for separate areas or rooms for those with environmental problems, such as allergies.

²⁴ Each convention makes provision for those with special needs, such as the elderly and the

physically disabled. Please be sure not to occupy seats in one of these sections if you do not qualify. Also, be alert to assist those with special needs to find a seat if they are not accompanied by someone responsible for their care.

²⁵ **Caring for Your Convention Food Needs:** As you know, the December 1994 *Our Kingdom Ministry* announced: "Beginning with the 1995 district conventions and the September 1995 circuit assemblies and special assembly days, there will be no food served. Each one is to bring his own food and drink." Then the February 1995 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert explained why this adjustment has been made and gave fine suggestions as to how everyone can care for his own food and drink needs at the convention. It would be good for all not only to review that insert themselves but also to go over it with their Bible students as they prepare to attend the convention. It is important that Bible students be informed that all attending should bring their own food and drink to the convention.

²⁶ Just to emphasize some points, you will want to remember these suggested items to bring for the noon break: light, simple, and nourishing lunch items similar to what people often take with them to a secular job, such as cold sandwiches, dried fruits, nuts, baked items, and fresh fruit. Liquids may include coffee, soft drinks, fruit juices, or bottled water, in a nonbreakable container or a thermos. If small coolers are necessary, they are acceptable if they will fit under your seat. However, no large family-size picnic coolers, alcoholic beverages, or glass containers should be brought into the convention facility. Eating or snacking during the program sessions should be avoided. This would show disrespect for the spiritual meal being served.

²⁷ An additional caution is that no cooking is to be done in hotel rooms unless they have a kitchenette for that purpose. It is good to reflect on the fact that the time allowed for the noon break is designed so that we can take in light refreshment and enjoy theocratic association with our brothers and sisters. As Jehovah's people, we recognize that the spiritual food at the conventions is of primary importance in comparison with material things, and we should plan accordingly.

²⁸ On June 2, 1995, the first of the "Joyful Praisers" District Conventions will begin. Have you completed your preparations, and are you now ready to enjoy three days of happy fellowship and spiritual good things? It is our sincere prayer that Jehovah will bless your efforts to attend this summer's convention with your brothers and sisters as we dwell on how to be joyful praisers of Jehovah.

District Convention Reminders

Baptism: Baptismal candidates should be in their seats in the designated section before the program begins on Saturday morning. It has been observed that some wear types of attire that are not dignified and detract from the occasion. A *modest* bathing suit and a towel should be brought by each one who plans to be baptized. After the baptism talk and prayer by the speaker, the session chairman will give brief instructions to the candidates and will then call for a song. After the *last* stanza, the attendants will direct the candidates to the immersion site. Since baptism in symbol of one's dedication is an intimate and personal matter between the individual and Jehovah, there is no provision for so-called partner baptisms in which two or more baptismal candidates embrace or hold hands while being baptized.

Badge Cards: Please *wear* the 1995 badge card at the convention and while traveling to and from the convention site. This often makes it possible for us to give a fine witness while traveling. Badge cards and holders should be obtained through your congregation, as they will *not* be available at the convention. Remember to carry your current Advance Medical Directive/Release card. Bethel family members and pioneers should have their identification cards with them.

Rooming: We are asking for the cooperation of everyone in using **ONLY** the listing of accommodations provided by the convention. If we bypass the Society's arrangement and secure a hotel not on the approved list or pay more than the agreed-upon rate at one of the listed hotels, we undermine much of the hard work of our brothers who negotiate with the hotels for better rates. **IF YOU EXPERIENCE A PROBLEM WITH A HOTEL**, please do not hesitate to bring it to the attention of the Rooming Department overseer at the convention so that he can assist you in resolving the matter right away. Congregation secretaries should be sure that Special Needs Room Request forms are promptly forwarded to the appropriate convention address. If you must cancel an accommodation made through the special needs arrangement, you should immediately notify both the landlord or hotel and the convention Rooming Department so that the room can be reassigned.

Baby Strollers and Lawn Chairs: In many locations, baby strollers cannot be used in places of public assembly. Fire regulations prohibit placing them in corridors and aisles or between rows of seats. Since large crowds may cause congested conditions, baby strollers are potentially dangerous not only to the baby but also to any who may stumble over them. So please do not bring them to the convention site. However, infant or car seats are permissible, since these can be secured in seats next to the parents. Also, please do not bring lawn chairs. They are dangerous and are not allowed at large public facilities. Your cooperation in these matters is appreciated.

Volunteer Service: Can you set aside some time at the convention to assist in one of the departments? Serving our brothers, if only for a few hours, can be very helpful and bring a good measure of satisfaction. If you can assist, please report to the Volunteer Service Department at the convention. Children under 16 years of age can also make a fine contribution by working under the direction of a parent or other responsible adult.

Words of Caution: By keeping alert to potential problems, we can save ourselves unnecessary difficulty. Often thieves and other unscrupulous individuals will prey on people who are away from their home environment. Be sure your vehicle is locked *at all times*, and never leave anything visible to tempt someone to break in. Thieves and pickpockets focus their attention on large gatherings. It would not be wise to leave any valuables at your seat. You cannot be sure that everyone around you is a Christian. Why offer any temptation? Reports have been received of attempts made by some outsiders to lure children away. **KEEP YOUR CHILDREN IN SIGHT AT ALL TIMES.**

Cable television that is available in many hotels often features lewd, pornographic movies. Be alert to this snare, and do not permit children to have unsupervised access to the television in the room.

Please do not phone the management of the convention auditorium seeking information about any convention matters. If the information is not available from the elders, please write to the convention address found on the back of the Special Needs Room Request forms on file with each congregation secretary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature to be used during **May**: The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. For territory that is covered frequently, any brochure (except the *School* brochure) may also be used. Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered. **June**: *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* **July and August**: Any of the following 32-page brochures may be used: *Does God Really Care About Us?*, *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!*, *“Look! I Am Making All Things New,” Should You Believe in the Trinity?*, *The Divine Name That Will Endure Forever*, *The Government That Will Bring Paradise*, *What Is the Purpose of Life?*, and *When Someone You Love Dies*. NOTE: Congregations that have not yet requested the above-mentioned campaign items should do so on their next monthly Literature Request Form (S-14).

■ The presiding overseer should telephone the Society if he does not receive the congregation's supply of *Our Kingdom Ministry* by the 20th of the month preceding the issue date. If the presiding overseer's address is being changed, please send a completed Presiding Overseer Change of Address form (S-29) to the Society immediately, since *Our Kingdom Ministry* is sent to the presiding overseer's address.

QUESTION BOX

■ What items should we take to meetings?

Each week we receive beneficial instruction and encouragement at congregation meetings. (Isa. 48:17; Heb. 10:24, 25) How much we benefit, however, depends largely on whether we come well prepared or not.

It would be good for each family member to have his own study material and other items needed for the meetings. This would include a Bible, a songbook, the publication(s) being studied, a notebook, and a pen or pencil.

For the Theocratic Ministry School, the Theocratic Ministry School Schedule and the *Theocratic Ministry School Guidebook* are needed. These items help us to keep in mind the theme of the student talks being given and to follow the school overseer when he gives counsel. We can make personal application of the counsel and suggestions in order to improve our own talks and field service presentations. Since January, most of the instruction talks are based on *Jehovah's Witnesses—Proclaimers of God's Kingdom*. It may not be prac-

tical for every family member to take his own copy; perhaps one volume could be brought so that the family will have it available for reference.

For the Service Meeting, we need to have the current *Our Kingdom Ministry* and the *Reasoning* book. Take along any publications referred to during the meeting, such as literature items that will be used in presentations to be demonstrated. Elders should have a copy of *Organized to Accomplish Our Ministry*.

Parents should endeavor to have their children sit still and pay attention at congregation meetings. Providing them with personal copies of *The Watchtower* and other publications, even before they are able to read, encourages them to take an interest. When young ones are taught to respect theocratic publications and to use them, lifelong, wholesome spiritual habits are formed.

The joy and satisfaction we derive from congregation meetings are greatly enhanced when we come fully equipped. (2 Tim. 3:17) This is the best way to ensure that we are “filled with the accurate knowledge of [God's] will in all wisdom and spiritual comprehension.”—Col. 1:9.

Why Keep a Record of Not-at-Homes?

¹ A Witness couple were out in field service early in the day. Later that same day, they returned to cover their not-at-homes in that territory. One man invited them in and listened intently. He took a *Live Forever* book and asked if the Witnesses would return. He had never talked with Jehovah's Witnesses before and had many questions he wanted answered; a Bible study was started. This couple were overjoyed to locate such a sheeplike individual. Would you like to have an experience such as that? Keeping a good record of not-at-homes and returning promptly may make it possible for you to do so.

² We have repeatedly been urged to keep an accurate record of not-at-homes and to call again soon. As the above experience shows, another visit on the same day may bring excellent results. While we may be

intent on covering the assigned territory, perhaps we are not as diligent in keeping a record of those who are not at home. Some say: ‘We work our territory every two or three weeks; there is no need to keep such a record because we will be back very soon anyway.’ But that gives us even more reason to keep a record. Where territory coverage is frequent, following up not-at-homes enables us to be more thorough in searching out deserving ones. How so?

³ In many areas, 50 percent or more of the residents are not at home during the day. So, in effect, we make more territory available by concentrating more on our not-at-homes. Even if the territory is seldom worked, we can improve the results when an effort is made to reach everyone before marking the territory as having been worked.

⁴ Calling on not-at-homes can usual-

ly be arranged for another day, preferably within a week. Many find it better to return on a day and at a time different from when the initial call was made. You may choose to use some time on Saturday or Sunday to follow up not-at-homes noted during the week. Then again, many congregations find that making such calls in the early evening hours has been fruitful. They may find more than half the residents at home.

⁵ You should list return visits in your personal records. If you are unable to get back to where no one was at home, your record of not-at-homes should be given to the brother handling the group, for use by the next group going into that territory.

⁶ Giving closer attention to this feature of our ministry can increase our productivity as well as our joy. It can give us the satisfaction that comes with knowing that we are thorough in searching out and caring for sheeplike ones.—Ezek. 34: 11-14.

Good News for the Meek Ones

¹ We live in a time of impending judgment. (Ezek. 9:5, 6) It is urgent that meek people everywhere be informed so that they can prepare for what is coming. In his loving-kindness, Jehovah has commissioned his people "to tell good news to the meek ones." (Isa. 61:1, 2) Our magazines help us declare this good news far and wide.

² *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* provide solid spiritual food that strengthens and motivates us. *The Watchtower* comforts meek ones with the good news that God's Kingdom will soon turn the earth into a paradise. *Awake!* builds confidence in the Creator's promise of a peaceful and secure new world. Wide-spread distribution of these journals is one of the fastest ways to bring the good news to the meek ones. What talking-points can we highlight in the latest issues?

³ **You could present the May 1 "Watchtower" by pointing to the article "Benefiting From Daily**

Bible Reading" and asking the question:

■ "What benefit do you think we can derive from reading the Bible? [Allow for response.] The Bible itself, at Romans 15:4, helps us to reason on that question. [Read Romans 15:4.] Most people in our community have a Bible, but few find time to read it regularly. We believe that the only sure hope for the future is to be found in the Bible, and we will be blessed if we read it." Make additional appropriate comments, and then offer the magazines.

⁴ **The May 15 "Watchtower" features an intriguing article entitled: "A New Life for Our Ancestors." You might be able to stir interest with this introduction:**

■ "Many have often wondered what their ancestors were like. Since they are dead and gone, most people conclude that we will never know. Do you think there is any possibility that we will ever get to know our ancestors?" Allow for

response. Read John 5:28, 29, and explain how God has promised to give them a new life in a paradise earth.

⁵ **You could offer the May 8 "Awake!" by asking a question:**

■ "What do you think it would take to make life really worth living?" Allow for response. Refer to the article "What Is the Meaning of Life?", page 26, and read Solomon's words at Ecclesiastes 2:11. Then, point out his advice at chapter 12, verse 13. Invite the householder to accept the magazine.

⁶ If you are working with the magazines prior to May 14, be sure to carry copies of *Kingdom News* No. 34 and offer them to anyone who has not yet received a copy. In distributing the magazines, we should remember that householders are welcome to give a small contribution toward the support of our work if they wish. We should always be ready to share our literature, realizing that it may be read by others in the family as well as by friends who may visit them. (1 Tim. 6:18) The good news we bring to the meek ones may save their lives.—1 Tim. 4:16.

Marking That Brings Deliverance

¹ Before executing his righteous judgments, Jehovah always gives warning and provides the meek ones with a way of escape. In Ezekiel's day, there were those who were sighing and groaning about all the detestable things being done. Jehovah caused such deserving ones to be marked for deliverance. (Ezek. 9:4-6) Our preaching work today accomplishes the same purpose. We can play an important role.

² Locating sincere people is just the first step. We arrange for a return visit. Preparation for the return visit is made on the first call by noting the placement and the subject discussed. Our success in calling back will largely depend on what we are prepared to say and do when we return.

³ **In following up the placement of "The Watchtower," you could focus on its main theme:**

■ "Note that on the front cover of *The Watchtower* appears the statement 'Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom.' What makes this magazine unique is that it advocates God's Kingdom as the only solution to the world's problems. It ex-

plains what God's Kingdom will accomplish when God's will is done on earth. This is the good news that Jesus said would be declared in all the earth." Read Matthew 24:14, and explain how *The Watchtower* can be obtained regularly and used for personal Bible study.

⁴ **You might prefer to focus simply on the Bible itself and stress the need to read it regularly. You could say:**

■ "It seems that just about everyone we know would appreciate some practical advice on how to cope with the problems of everyday living. Where do you think we can find advice that we can trust? [Allow for response.] Many who have put their trust in the advice of friends or who have paid for professional counsel have been sadly disappointed. On the other hand, millions of people have found the Bible to be the only source of advice they can really trust. The Bible provides instruction on how to cope with any problem we may face. [Read 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.] Although you may have found the Bible difficult to understand, let me show you how you

can use it to open up a treasure-house of wise counsel." Continue by turning to "Love" in the section "Bible Words Indexed" in the back of the *New World Translation*, and point out some of the references that show how love can help us resolve differences with others.

⁵ **With the goal of starting a Bible study, you might choose to use the book "You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth," using this introduction:**

■ "We love our families and want the best for them. How would your family benefit from living in a world like this?" Show the illustrations on pages 156-7. Read one or two of the scriptures quoted on those pages, and explain that these are promises made by Jehovah God, who cannot lie. Refer to the list of chapters on pages 5-6, and ask the householder which subject interests him most; turn to the chapter he selects, and discuss one or two paragraphs.

⁶ Would you like to help another person to be marked for deliverance? Success lies in 'fully accomplishing your ministry' by preparing well and promptly following up all the interest you find.—2 Tim. 4:5.