

The WATCHTOWER

Announcing
JEHOVAH'S
KINGDOM

JANUARY 1, 1971

Semimonthly

HAVE YOU ENTERED
THE GREAT CONTEST OF FAITH?

WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

MAKE FRIENDS WITH
THOSE WHO LOVE GOD

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"YOU ARE MY WITNESSES." SAYS JEHOVAH.—Isa. 43:12

THE PURPOSE OF "THE WATCHTOWER"

Every watchtower has its purpose. It serves as an elevated place for a wide-awake person with sharp vision. It enables him to see far ahead into the distance and tell those below for whom he is a watchman what is drawing near, whether it is a danger against which to prepare or it is something good over which to be glad with strong faith and hope.

Because of having the name "The Watchtower" this magazine justly has to render a similar useful service to the people of all nations. This is an international magazine and makes no racial distinctions, for we are all facing a common world danger; we are all hoping for a common good.

Ever since "The Watchtower" began to be published in July of 1879 it has looked ahead into the future, always striving to aid its readers to advance in knowledge and to gain a clearer picture of the glorious new order of things that is in store for righteous mankind. No, "The Watchtower" is no inspired prophet, but it follows and explains a Book of prophecy the predictions in which have proved to be unerring and unfailing till now. "The Watchtower" is therefore under safe guidance. It may be read with confidence, for its statements may be checked against that prophetic Book.

Among the many nations of today there are hundreds of differing religions. Which one does this magazine present? Not the confused religions of Christendom, but the religion of the oldest sacred Book on earth. Which Book? The Sacred Bible of the Holy Scriptures, written by inspiration in the name of the Creator of heaven and earth, the only living and true God.

The sacred, nonpolitical purpose of "The Watchtower" is accordingly to encourage and promote study of the Holy Bible and to give our many readers the needed unsectarian help to understand that Book of true religion and infallible prophecy. Thus this magazine will be helping them to prove worthy of perfect life and happiness in God's promised new order under His everlasting kingdom of righteousness.

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"They will all be taught by Jehovah."—John 6:45; Isaiah 54:13

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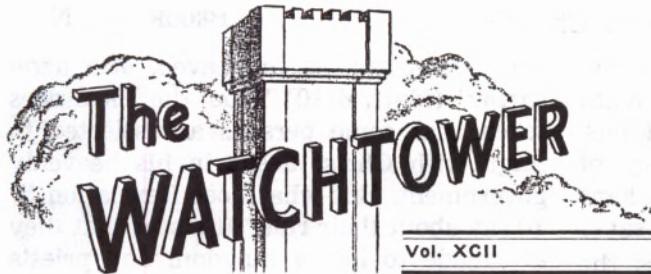
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Announcing
Jehovah's
Kingdom

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ASK men and women in the street this question and you will get a great variety of answers.

Some will say the kingdom of God is "in your hearts." Others insist it is a spiritual realm reached only after one dies. Many persons will even scoff at the question, claiming that the whole idea of a kingdom of God is unreal, impractical, that man, in effect, is in complete charge of his own destiny.

But what would your answer be?

You may say, "Well, what difference does it make anyway? I'll leave that to the theologians to argue about. What concerns me is that today I'm almost afraid to send my children to school or let my wife walk down the street alone. I'm concerned about the shakiness of the economy, the problem of pollution, and a dozen other things. But 'the kingdom of God'—well, after these immediate problems are straightened out, then I'll think about that."

But really, *for those very reasons* you should want to know about God's kingdom. Yes, the very fact that you are concerned about the crime and violence in the schools and on the streets, the shaky economy, the threat of spreading wars, the dangers of pollution, should make truthful information about the kingdom

of God of great interest to you. Why?

Because—when a person clears his mind of political propaganda, cleans out preconceived notions and prejudices, and honestly faces up to what man has been doing or failing to do with life on earth, not just in recent years but for decades, even centuries—it can be appreciated that the kingdom of God is the only realistic and practical solution to mankind's problems.

This is because God's kingdom is, not just a feeling in people's hearts, not something that only benefits persons after death, but a *government*. And it is a government with power and purpose, especially fitted to correct the bad conditions that right now rob human life of so much of its joy.

GOD'S KINGDOM—REALLY A GOVERNMENT?

Does it sound strange to speak of the kingdom of God as a government? Perhaps so, yet that is what the Bible teaches. The very word "kingdom" means a government ruled by a king. The Bible speaks

of the kingdoms of Babylon, Persia, Greece and other ancient kingdoms. What were they? Governments ruled by kings. The second chapter of the prophecy of Daniel deals with such national kingdoms and their rule and strength and then says:

"And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be brought to ruin. And the kingdom itself will not be passed on to any other people. It will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, and it itself will stand to times indefinite."—Dan. 2:37-44.

So God's kingdom is also a government and one with power far superior to any or all governments that men have produced. According to the prophecy, it is going to do away with all such governments and permanently replace them.

Jesus' disciples understood that the kingdom he taught them about was a government. (Acts 1:6) In fact, prior to Jesus' birth the prophetic promise was: "This one will be great and will be called Son of the Most High; and Jehovah God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule as king over the house of Jacob forever, and there will be no end of his kingdom." (Luke 1:32, 33) That David's kingdom was a government is a fact of history. The kingdom of Christ Jesus, who descended from David, is also a government, though far greater than David's. This is because it is a heavenly government.—Acts 2:29-36.

A HEAVENLY GOVERNMENT

—BOTH REAL AND PRACTICAL

More than thirty times the "kingdom of God" is referred to in a parallel phrase as the "kingdom of the heavens." (Luke 8:1; Matt. 10:7) Does that mean that to enjoy its benefits you must go to heaven? No, for Christ Jesus said that persons should pray: "Let your kingdom come. Let your

will take place, as in heaven, *also upon earth.*" (Matt. 6:10) True, the Bible does teach that some persons are selected to reign with Christ Jesus in his heavenly government. But what does Revelation 5:10 say about their rule? It states that they are made to be "a kingdom and priests to our God, and they are to rule as kings over the earth."

However, some may say that to talk about the earth's being ruled by a government based in heaven, and therefore invisible to men, is not being "practical," not being "realistic." Still, today most people live some distance, and often hundreds of miles, from the executive offices of the government that rules them. The majority have never personally met the chief executive. Still they must admit that their government has force and effect in their daily lives.

No less so with God's kingdom. Its seat of authority in the courts of heaven in no way impairs its efficiency of administration. Really, in a time when men have received messages broadcast from the moon's surface, should space be viewed as a barrier to communication by God's kingdom? Today pragmatic political rulers of the world's great powers are willing to spend huge sums of money on space efforts. Why? Because they see definite advantages in being able to survey the earth's surface from greater heights than their capitol buildings. Their interest in "space platforms" or even "moon stations" is certainly not "purely scientific." Back in 1958 when he was a senator of the United States Congress, Lyndon B. Johnson said:

"There is something more important than any ultimate weapon. That is the ultimate position—the position of total control over earth lies somewhere out in space. This is the future, the distant fu-

ture, though not so distant as we may have thought. Whoever gains that ultimate position gains control, total control, over the earth, for purposes of tyranny or for the service of freedom.”—New York Times of January 8, 1958.

The Bible shows that, despite recent space successes, no political government will ever gain that “ultimate position.”

It is already taken by God’s kingdom in the hands of Christ Jesus. And that government is even now using such ultimate position for the benefit of persons who truly love what is right. Its promise is that, not the tyrannical, the proud, the violent, or the greedy, but “the mild-tempered ones . . . will inherit the earth.”—Matt. 5:5.

What would you say is the greatest problem that governments today must cope with? You may think of war, crime, corruption, pollution, economic instability or other similar problems. But what causes these things? Do they just happen—or is there something that leads to them, motivates them? The answer may sound simple, yet no one can honestly deny that selfishness is the basic cause, a lack of respect, consideration, yes, love for one’s neighbor.

While many will acknowledge that this is so, they may say: “True, but what can be done about it? How could laws requiring men to love their neighbor ever be enforced? To do that a government would have to be able to read men’s hearts.”

Exactly. And that is why the kingdom



God’s kingdom will forever rid the earth of crime, drug addiction, pollution and every form of corruption

heart as a result of what you read.

More than this, though, God’s kingdom government is solemnly committed to cleansing this earth of all persons who prefer to live in selfishness, and it has the power to do this. (2 Thess. 1:6-8) It takes this action because, as Jesus’ disciples stated: “If anyone makes the statement: ‘I love God,’ and yet is hating his brother, he is a liar. For he who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot be loving God, whom he has not seen.” (1 John 4:20) Yes, the kingdom by Christ Jesus gives highest importance to love of God and love of neighbor. That is why it alone holds the key to the elimination of earth’s problems.

Do you sincerely want to see an earth free from riots, strikes, poverty, oppression, crime and violence? Then begin now to learn about God’s righteous government. Why not write the publishers of this magazine for more information. They will be happy to see that you receive help in learning what your Bible says about the kingdom of God, the real solution to mankind’s problems.

of God is the only practical government that can solve earth’s problems. Its king, Christ Jesus, showed that he could read men’s hearts when on earth, and his analyses consistently proved right. Take the time to read what he said and did as recorded in the Bible and you will see that he really “knew what was in man.” (John 2:25) You may, in fact, find yourself searching your own

MAKE FRIENDS WITH THOSE WHO LOVE GOD

I AM thinking of the very best friend you can have. This one has done more for you than any other person. Do you know who it is? It is Jehovah God.

It is true that Jehovah is in heaven and we cannot see him. But he cares for us. He wants to be our friend. And the Bible shows that we can be friends of Jehovah. It tells us that the man Abraham, who lived long ago, was called "Jehovah's friend."—Jas. 2:23.

But how can we be friends of Jehovah God? Can we be his friends if we do things that he does not like? Jesus is a friend of God, and he said: "I always do the things pleasing to him." So if we want to be God's friends, we also need to do what pleases God.—John 8:29.

Many persons today do not love Jehovah. They do not want to study the Bible or do what God says. If you play with persons like that, will it help you to love God more? Or could it cause you to love God less? What do you think?

It does not please Jehovah if we make friends with persons who do not love him. Those persons can cause us to become just like them. Jesus did not make friends with people like those. His friends were persons who loved Jehovah God and wanted to serve him. Let's see who some of them were.

Jesus' closest friends were his apostles. They were men like Peter and John who traveled with him and helped him in doing the preaching work. Jesus spent much of his time with these men. They ate together. They talked about God together. And they did many other things together.

But Jesus had many other friends. In

An article specially designed for parents to read with their children

towns that Jesus and his apostles visited, there were families who loved Jehovah God. These people were Jesus' friends too. He would stay with them. And they had good times together.

One family Jesus liked to stay with lived in the small town of Bethany. Do you remember them? There were Mary and Martha and their brother Lazarus in this family. Jesus called Lazarus his friend. And the Bible says that Jesus loved all three of them.—John 11:5, 11.

Do you know why Jesus loved this family and enjoyed being with them? It is because these sisters and their brother loved Jehovah God and served him. And they also respected Jesus as the Great Teacher.

One time Jesus showed what is needed to be his friend. He told his followers: "You are my friends if you do what I am commanding you." (John 15:14) So could a person be Jesus' friend if he did not obey him? What do you think? No, Jesus made friends only with those who were willing to do what he said.

Many persons liked to listen to Jesus speak. But not all of them would do everything Jesus said. They may not have been persons who told lies or killed people. But still Jesus did not become their friend.

There is the example of a young man who came to Jesus one day. This man told Jesus: 'I have kept the laws of God. What else must I do to get everlasting life?'

Jesus told him: 'Go sell the things that you own, and come be my follower.'

When Jesus said this, the man became very sad. This is because he was rich and owned many things. He loved these things more than he loved God. So the man went

away and did not do what Jesus told him to do. He did not sell his many things and become a follower of Jesus.

This rich young man was not a person who most people would say was bad. The Bible even says that Jesus felt love for him. But still Jesus did not become one of his friends.—Mark 10:17-22.

This does not mean that Jesus was not kind to persons who did not serve God. He was. He would even go to their homes and eat with them. This caused men to ask Jesus' disciples one day: 'Why is it that your teacher eats with persons that do bad things?' (Matt. 9:10, 11) What would you have said? Could you have answered that question?

Jesus visited with these persons so that he could talk to them about God. He tried to help them to change from their bad ways and to serve God. Jesus did not go to their homes because he liked the things that those people did. These people were not really his friends.

Once Jesus visited the home of Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was a rich man who had done bad things. When Jesus came to his town, a crowd of people were there. Zacchaeus, who was a small man, climbed a tree so he could see Jesus as he went by. When Jesus came to that tree he looked up and told Zacchaeus: 'Hurry and get



down. Today I will come to your home.'

Why did Jesus go to the home of Zacchaeus? Do you know? It was so he could preach to Zacchaeus. And the result was that Zacchaeus changed from his bad ways. He gave back the money he had no right to take, and he became a follower of Jesus. It was then that Jesus made friends with Zacchaeus.—Luke 19:1-10.

So Jesus made friends only with persons who loved and served God. He was kind to other people. He would even visit their homes to talk to them about God. But he did not make friends with them unless they became his followers. He did not even make friends with that rich young man who did many good things but who would not serve God completely.

To be like Jesus, you and I must follow Jesus' example. We should be kind to all persons. But we should not make friends with everyone.

We must not make friends with persons who do not love God and serve him.

Why is it wrong to make friends with persons like that? What could happen if we did? We could become like those persons. We could lose our love for Jehovah God. So, let's be wise and follow the example of Jesus, shall we? Let's make friends only with those who really do love God.

"He that is walking with wise persons will become wise, but he that is having dealings with the stupid ones will fare badly."

—Prov. 13:20.

Have You Entered the GREAT CONTEST of FAITH?

"Fight the fine fight of the faith, get a firm hold on the everlasting life."—1 Tim. 6:12.

IT IS estimated that today 924,274,000 persons profess Christianity. Do you think that the majority of these persons are running the great race for the faith? Have they taken hold on everlasting life? Or, do you think that the majority of those in Christendom believe that they have gained what life they have through an evolutionary process? Many of Christendom's schools teach evolution, not creation by God, as the Bible states. Which way do you lean?

² In the denominational systems of Christendom it is generally understood that Jesus was the founder of Christianity, but today a number of the so-called modernists, and those of little faith, do not accept Jesus Christ as their redeemer from death. They look upon Jesus as an ordinary man who had a very fine philosophy, taught many good things and led an exemplary life. But as for his being the Son of God born of the virgin Mary, and providing the ransom price for all mankind, well, that is going too far for them. And then there is the creation of Adam and Eve by God, and the story of Noah with his ark. Does it take too much faith for you to believe all that also?

³ Well, what about Peter, who many say

1. What timely questions are asked about the hundreds of millions of persons professing Christianity?
2. How do many in the denominational systems of Christendom view Christ Jesus, as well as the Creation and Flood accounts?
3. 4. (a) What was the apostle Peter's view of the Flood account, and of what concern should that be to Roman Catholics? (b) How did Jesus show his faith in the Flood account and its significance to mankind?

was the first pope of the Roman Catholic Church? He believed the Holy Scriptures just as Christ Jesus did and he said: "I am arousing your clear thinking faculties by way of a reminder, that you should remember the sayings previously spoken by the holy prophets . . . For, according to their [that is, the scoffers'] wish, this fact escapes their notice, that there were heavens from of old and an earth standing compactly out of water and in the midst of water by the word of God; and by those means the world of that time suffered destruction when it was deluged with water. But by the same word the heavens and the earth that are now are stored up for fire and are being reserved to the day of judgment and of destruction of the ungodly men."—2 Pet. 3:1-7.

⁴ Maybe you do not have faith like Peter's, but Peter believed the things he wrote about the flood of Noah's day because he had faith in what was "spoken by the holy prophets" and by Christ Jesus, who said: "For just as the days of Noah were, so the presence of the Son of man will be. For as they were in those days before the flood, eating and drinking, men marrying and women being given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark; and they took no note until the flood came and swept them all away, so the presence of the Son of man will be." (Matt. 24:37-39) Here Jesus was answering a question put to him by his disciples, namely: "Tell us, When will these things be,

and what will be the sign of your presence and of the conclusion of the system of things?" (Matt. 24:3) Jesus Christ, the Son of God, described to his disciples the many things that would happen at the conclusion of this system of things, or, if you prefer the expression, the "end of the world." Read the twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew. It may rekindle a fire in you and you may want to enter the great contest of faith. If you already believe God's Word it will certainly help you to continue fighting a fine fight for the faith.

⁵ Jesus declared that one of the big events that would take place world wide in the last days of this system of things would be a great preaching work concerning the kingdom of God. Jesus prophesied: "And this good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations; and then the end will come."—Matt. 24:14.

⁶ Jesus startled people by saying something that millions of people are still saying: "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." (Matt. 6:9, 10, *King James Version*) Were you taught that prayer and have you prayed it once in a while in your life? But how many persons saying these words really want Jehovah God's kingdom to come to take over the rulership of this earth? Jesus Christ, the Son of God, did! Do you?

IN WHAT IS YOUR INTEREST?

⁷ Jesus' whole interest in life was in God's kingdom. It still is. In his Sermon on the Mount he said: "Keep on, then, seeking first the kingdom and his righteousness, and all these other things will be added to you." (Matt. 6:33) Jesus trained people

5, 6. In whose rule was Jesus primarily interested, and how did he show this?

7. How did Jesus school his disciples in showing interest in God's kingdom?

to talk about this kingdom, and he sent his twelve disciples out to tell other persons about the Kingdom. He said: "As you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of the heavens has drawn near.' Cure sick people, raise up dead persons, make lepers clean, expel demons. You received free, give free." (Matt. 10:7, 8) Jesus wanted his disciples to help people everywhere to understand that the only hope for mankind to get hold of everlasting life was through God's kingdom. "Now when Jesus had finished giving instructions to his twelve disciples, he set out from there to teach and preach in their cities." (Matt. 11:1) After teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum and doing some wonderful works Jesus told his disciples: "'Let us go somewhere else, into the village towns nearby, that I may preach there also, for it is for this purpose I have gone out.' And he did go, preaching in their synagogues throughout the whole of Galilee and expelling the demons."—Mark 1:38, 39.

⁸ For three and one half years Jesus devoted himself to teaching and preaching and his only theme was the kingdom of God and the blessings that it would bring to mankind. Then he died upon the torture stake. But he knew that the good news of the Kingdom had to be preached right on down to the end of this system of things. That is why Jesus, after being raised from the dead, said to his followers: "Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit, teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you. And, look! I am with you all the days until the conclusion of the system of things."—Matt. 28:19, 20.

⁹ We learn from the Holy Scriptures in

8. After Jesus' death and resurrection, did the importance of God's kingdom fade from the minds of his followers? Why?

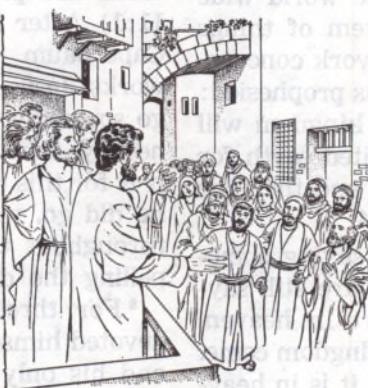
9. At Pentecost what did Peter preach, and to whom and with what results?

the book of Acts, chapter two, that after Jesus ascended into heaven he sent the holy spirit on the day of Pentecost of the year 33 C.E., and the 120 disciples that Jesus taught and trained were all filled with this active force from God. It was on that day that Peter went out before the great crowds in the city of Jerusalem and eloquently spoke to thousands of persons. On hearing the message that Peter delivered on that day, many got saved from that crooked generation and they were baptized. From that day on, the good news of the Kingdom started to go on to the ends of the earth. There were in Jerusalem at that time 'Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and the inhabitants of Mesopotamia, and Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and the district of Asia, and Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya, which is toward Cyrene, and sojourners from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians.' (Acts 2:9-11) In fact, fifteen nationalities were represented, having come there from many parts of the then known world, and the record shows that many who heard Peter's message that day were baptized. These Jews and proselytes believed in Jehovah God and now they accepted Christ Jesus and were glad to carry back to their different countries and lands the message that they had heard. They were Jehovah's Christian witnesses now because they had faith in God's Son, Christ Jesus, who redeemed them from death, and they believed in the kingdom of God. They, too, were now entering the great contest of faith and would have to stand up against many different religions that people in their lands believed. Christianity was off

to a good start. These dedicated, baptized people must now be evangelizers, which meant they would try to convert others to Christianity, and Jesus' words that "you will be witnesses of me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the most distant part of the earth" must have fulfillment.—Acts 1:8.

THE EXPANSION BEGINS

¹⁰ There is much evidence in the Word of God to show that Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria received a very fine witness. Philip the evangelizer went down to the city of Samaria, and the crowds paid attention to what he had to say. Peter started things going with the Gentiles by talking to Cornelius, who got baptized and, being begotten by holy spirit, proved that he, too, was a Christian. We also read about Paul and Barnabas and their ministry in these words: "Accordingly, after being con-



ducted part way by the congregation, these men continued on their way through both Phoenicia and Samaria, relating in detail the conversion of people of the nations, and they were causing great joy to all the brothers." (Acts 15:3) There was great expansion work going on in those early days of Christianity, and people who listened to the truth from the Word of God got together in congregations and became very active in doing God's will. Acts 9:31 tells us: "Then, indeed, the congregation throughout the whole of Judea and Galilee and Samaria entered into a period of peace, being built up; and as it walked in the fear of Jehovah and in the comfort of the holy spirit

10. Show how people in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria received the witness of the truth following Pentecost.

it kept on multiplying." This peaceful condition occurred before the conversion of Cornelius, and even though Gentiles were converted after this particular time it did not disturb the Jewish Christian congregations in any way because now they understood that a worldwide evangelizing work must be pushed forward.

¹¹ The apostle Paul was the faithful Christian that helped the young man Timothy to take a firm stand for the truth and to "fight the fine fight of the faith." It must have given Paul a lot of satisfaction to see a young man like Timothy become so zealous and reach out for the office of overseer in a congregation of God and do so well in his work. Being a man who had such a firm hold on everlasting life, Paul could also admonish Timothy to "preach the word, be at it urgently in favorable season, in troublesome season . . . keep your senses in all things, suffer evil, do the work of an evangelizer, fully accomplish your ministry." (2 Tim. 4:2-5) There were many men like Paul and Timothy preaching the good news of the Kingdom in those early days. Today likewise there are many dedicated men and women doing this work.

¹² What would you do if you were to meet Jesus journeying from city to city and village to village? Would you, like a certain man, say to him: "Lord, are those who are being saved few?" In reply to this man and those with him Jesus said: "Exert yourselves vigorously to get in through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will seek to get in but will not be able." Would that answer disturb you and would you say, like many people today: "I know Christ Jesus. I go to church. I eat and drink at the Communion in re-

11. What good advice did the apostle Paul give young Timothy concerning the preaching work?

12. (a) How might some reply to the words of Jesus, "Exert yourselves vigorously to get in through the narrow door"? (b) How only can one gain Christ's approval?

membrance of Christ." That certain man heard Jesus say of those professing to know him: "I do not know where you are from. Get away from me, all you workers of unrighteousness!" (Luke 13:23-27) It takes a lot more than just talk and an outward appearance. A person must show his faith and works if he is going to get favor from Christ Jesus. He must exert himself vigorously to get in through the narrow door. He must "fight the fine fight of the faith" in order to get a "firm hold on the everlasting life." Do you? Is your religion easy? James said: "Faith without works is dead."—Jas. 2:26.

¹³ There are too many people in Christendom today who are begging off. They do not want to do the work that Christ Jesus was doing when he was on earth, nor that of his disciples. That is why the apostle Paul so emphatically said to the Hebrews in the letter he wrote to them: "See that you do not beg off from him who is speaking. For if they did not escape who begged off from him who was giving divine warning upon earth, much more shall we not if we turn away from him who speaks from the heavens." (Heb. 12:25) Do you beg off from what God's written Word says, and still call yourself a Christian? You should thank God that not everyone has begged off and that there are still some people who are putting up a fine fight for the faith and warning the nations of the impending end of this system of things and announcing the kingdom of God, which is about to rule fully over this earth.

THE GOOD NEWS REACHES AFRICA

¹⁴ In the early days of Christianity when Peter spoke on the day of Pentecost some who heard had come from Egypt and Lib-

13. What were Paul's words regarding the need to exert oneself vigorously?

14, 15. (a) Why can it be said that Christendom is not vigorously preaching God's kingdom in Africa today? (b) How did the Kingdom-preaching work of Jehovah's witnesses get started in West Africa in our day?

ya. When we think of these nations we think of the continent of Africa. Is the good news of God's kingdom being vigorously preached in Africa today? Surely Christendom is not declaring God's kingdom as man's only hope, because it says the United Nations organization is man's only hope. But have Jehovah's Christian witnesses been evangelizing in this continent, trying to establish faith in Christ Jesus and God's kingdom? Let us take a look.

¹⁵ It was in 1923 that W. R. Brown, one of Jehovah's witnesses who later became known as "Bible Brown," left his native land of Trinidad in the West Indies, along with his wife and young family, and traveled to Africa. He had faith, faith in Jehovah God and his Son, Christ Jesus, and in God's kingdom. He wanted the people of West Africa to know about God's kingdom and he went there to preach the good news. He traveled in many countries of West Africa

—Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon and others—and endured many hardships.

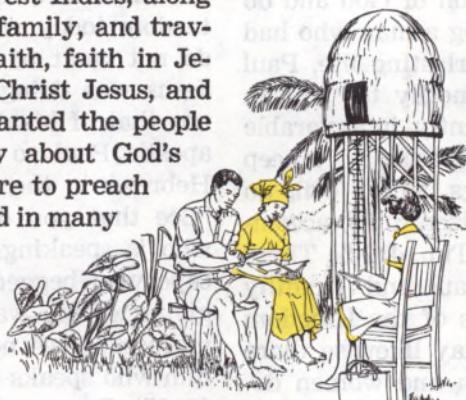
¹⁶ In 1931 "Bible

Brown" settled in Lagos, Nigeria, and established an office of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society. At their first convention, there were only ten delegates in attendance. This did not discourage "Bible Brown." He realized that, while many people in Nigeria could speak English, no great impression could be made upon these people until literature was available in their native tongues. The Society arranged for the translation of some publications in the Yoruba language, as well as Ibo, Itsekiri, Hausa and Efik. With these publications in their languages the people could be reached and, by having

16. For what reasons did the preaching activity move forward in Nigeria between the years 1931 and 1946?

Bible studies in their own homes, faith in God's Word could be established. By 1939 Jehovah's witnesses numbered 636. These Christians regularly preached along with "Bible Brown," declaring the Kingdom good news. Then came the second world war. The government prohibited the importation of the Society's publications. The ban was lifted in 1946, but during the years between 1939 and 1946, by just using the Bible, Jehovah's Christian congregation in Nigeria had grown to 3,542 persons.

¹⁷ During the second world war the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society opened the Watchtower Bible School of



Gilead. In 1943 the first graduates of this missionary school were ready to be sent out to carry on evangelizing work in all parts of the world. By 1947 the first graduates of Gilead School were allowed to enter Lagos, Nigeria.

¹⁸ Because of the high rate of illiteracy it was necessary to teach many Africans how to read and write, and in 1948 a literacy campaign was launched through reading classes in the congregations of Jehovah's witnesses. Literally thousands of West Africans have been taught to read and write through these free instruction classes in reading and writing. Now many more disciples have been added to the Christian ministry, preaching the good news of God's kingdom.

¹⁹ Tens of thousands of people approached with the Bible message were Catholics and Protestants, but, even so,

17, 18. How did graduates of Gilead School help the progress of the work?

19. What changes did the honest-hearted ones in Nigeria make upon learning the truth of the Bible?

many were still living in polygamy. Before any of these could become Jehovah's Christian witnesses they had to adjust their lives to become acceptable. The Bible says a man should be "a husband of one wife" and that each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. (1 Tim. 3:2; 1 Cor. 7:2) Why is it that Christendom's religious denominations allow their members to live in polygamy when the Bible speaks against this practice for Christians? What a marvelous change has taken place in the lives of these Nigerians and peoples of other nations throughout Africa who made a similar decision to fight a fine fight for the faith. Even though their former religious leaders in Christendom ridiculed them, this did not make any difference to these true Christians because, like the apostle Paul, they wanted to say: "I have fought the fine fight, I have run the course to the finish, I have observed the faith." —2 Tim. 4:7.

²⁰ Today, nearly fifty years after "Bible Brown" went to Africa to promote true Christian faith, we find that there are over 118,000 of Jehovah's Christian witnesses declaring the good news of God's kingdom in seven countries of West Africa.

²¹ Let us look at a country in Central Africa, Zambia. The preaching of God's kingdom had its beginning there in 1924. For many years, due to unjust bans, persecution and harassment of Jehovah's witnesses, things went slowly. It was not until 1947 that things really began to move forward, with 6,114 individuals preaching the good news of the Kingdom. The country was then known as Northern Rhodesia. In 1948 a branch office was established in Lusaka and in just one year the publishers increased to 11,606. The year 1948

also saw the arrival of the first graduates of Gilead School. These came to assist in the evangelizing activity and to aid in organizing the Christian work. They also assisted the congregations in their reading and writing program.

²² Recently the government asked the Watch Tower missionaries to leave the country, and the officials last year announced that Jehovah's witnesses may no longer go from house to house to make converts to the Christian faith. Now Jehovah's witnesses may speak about the Bible only to their own associates so as to build them up in the faith, and to those who inquire about their Christian work. In spite of these restrictions on going from house to house and village to village, the report from Zambia for the 1970 service year shows that the people of Zambia want to hear what Jehovah's Christian witnesses have to say and thousands of newly interested persons are coming to their Kingdom Halls. The actual number of individuals and households interested in having Jehovah's witnesses study the Bible with them every week this past year numbered 33,699, and 50,655 Christian witnesses of Jehovah shared in declaring this Kingdom good news during 1970. In fact, 157,013 Zambians attended the Memorial of Christ Jesus' death on the night of March 22, 1970.

²³ Directing the minds of the people of Zambia to the Bible has had a good moral effect. In *The African Weekly* of August 30, 1950, it was reported: "Watchtower Christians in the townships . . . are very active, but I am glad to report that their activities are very good indeed, and are reducing fighting among the Africans in these townships. Once they join the Watchtower . . . those Christians [Jehovah's witnesses] do not fight among themselves."

20. What has happened in West Africa in the last fifty years because of the Kingdom proclamation? 21, 22. What problems have come upon Jehovah's witnesses in Zambia, and how have these affected the activity of God's servants?

23. What outside testimony on how the Kingdom message changes people do we have from *The African Weekly*?

They do not go to beer halls to be mixed up with other fellows or women." The moral standard of Jehovah's witnesses in Zambia is based on the Bible and is the same as that of Jehovah's witnesses throughout the world. Today, in Zambia, there is one witness of Jehovah for every 89 Zambians. It can truly be said that every family in Zambia has heard the good news of God's kingdom. Whether they will fight the fine fight of the faith and get a firm hold on the everlasting life is for each one to decide. They can never say, 'We did not have a chance to hear the good news.'

²⁴ Nineteen hundred years ago some Christians left Jerusalem after hearing Peter, and went to Egypt, Libya and perhaps other parts of that great continent. Philip talked to an Ethiopian eunuch who was returning to his homeland. Can it be said that the witness of Jesus has been given to the most distant part of the earth, including Africa? The chart below shows what Jehovah's Christian witnesses have been doing.

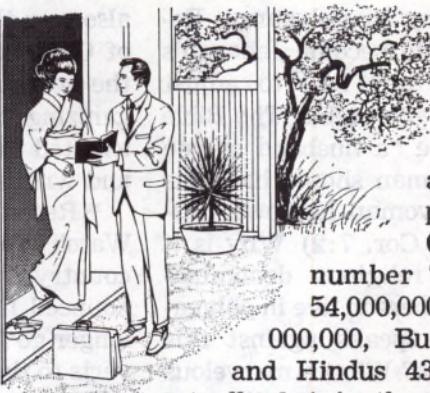
AFRICA			
In the year work was done	Number of lands where	Number of Jehovah's witnesses preaching	Number of Gilead graduates
1940	11	6,612	—
1950	29	53,787	46
1960	42	131,321	177
1970	51	250,915	328

ON TO ASIA

²⁵ On the day of Pentecost of 33 C.E. people from Parthia, Media, Elam, Cappadocia and the district of Asia heard what Peter had to say. What about today? The

24. Show wherein progress has been made in Africa during the past thirty years.

25. What problems do Christians face in bringing the Kingdom message to Asia?



BROOKLYN, N.Y.

greater part of Asia is non-Christian. The Moslem religion holds sway over a population of approximately 374,000,000, the Shintoists number 70,000,000, Taoists 54,000,000, Confucianists 371,000,000, Buddhists 176,000,000, and Hindus 435,000,000. Through-

out all of Asia there are approximately 120,000,000 professing Christianity. But are these showing faith in God's kingdom? Do they preach it? No! They just belong to a sect of Christendom and in most instances have a second non-Christian religion. But is the good news of God's kingdom heard in Asia at all now? Yes it is!

²⁶ In 1949 the Watch Tower Society was able to send its first missionaries to Korea, when only thirteen persons in the whole country were doing the work that Jehovah's witnesses do, namely, going from house to house to preach the good news of God's kingdom. In those days the missionaries met five Christian women who had stood firm, even in a concentration camp. During the time that the Japanese controlled Korea these five Christian women, bound in chains, refused to bow to the emperor and accept his religion. Their torture was severe, but they continued fighting a fine fight for the faith. They were released following the second world war and were very anxious to continue on in declaring the Kingdom good news. They are doing so to this day.

²⁷ How did the Koreans respond to the good news? By 1960 the Watch Tower Society had sent twenty-two missionaries, and more than 3,800 Koreans had joined

26, 27. Despite what type of persecution did Jehovah's Christian witnesses continue forward in Korea, resulting in what progress by 1970?

them in the work. In 1970 there were 12,267 preaching and teaching the good news of God's kingdom. It is truly remarkable to see that 6,575 Koreans were baptized during the past three years, which means that one half of all the witnesses of Jehovah in Korea have entered the great contest for the faith since 1967.

²⁸ We might look at another country of Asia, namely, India. What has happened there? In 1914 Jehovah's witnesses had four representatives there. It was not until 1926, though, that the Watch Tower Society opened an office in Bombay. This was done by some very zealous young Christian men from England who believed that India should have evangelizing work done there. They found it very difficult to convince the Hindus that the Bible is truly the Word of God, for the Hindus have been steeped in their religious beliefs for centuries. But progress was made and by April of 1947 the first two graduates of Gilead School were able to enter the country to help those already putting up a fine fight for the faith.

²⁹ India is a country of many gods, many languages, many customs and many ways of life. A missionary must adjust himself so as to reach different personalities. All kinds of people make up Jehovah's creation. So no matter where they may be on earth they must be given the opportunity to hear about God's kingdom, even though very few will accept it. Their work has been rewarding, because today there are 3,347 persons proclaiming the kingdom of God in spite of the greatest obstacles. Could you represent and be 'substituting for Christ' in a land like India? It certainly would test one's fighting ability.—2 Cor. 5:20.

28, 29. Why has Kingdom witnessing in India required Jehovah's servants to exert themselves vigorously?

³⁰ In comparison with many other parts of the earth, Japan had to wait longer to hear the good news of the Kingdom. In the year 1912 the first president of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, Charles T. Russell, visited Japan as the head of a committee of the International Bible Students Association, investigating the religious field in the Orient. They noticed that the missionaries of orthodox Christianity were considerably discouraged and Pastor Russell concluded that what the Japanese people needed was the gospel of the Kingdom, the announcing of the second coming of Christ and the establishment of his righteous kingdom. However, it was not until 1927 that an American-Japanese person was sent to Japan to try to open up the work. With the aid of a number of pioneers working hard, a peak of 110 ministers was reached in 1938. In that year, 1,125,817 copies of the *Golden Age* magazine, forerunner of the *Awake!* magazine, were distributed among the Japanese people. Then, on June 21, 1939, all of Jehovah's witnesses were arrested. Other members of so-called Christian organizations were not arrested, because the government did not object as long as those who belonged to their so-called Christian churches also worshiped the Shinto gods, of which there were eight million. However, Jehovah's witnesses were frowned upon for their noncompliance in worshiping the Shinto gods. And so they were charged with "advocating a Jehovah monotheism." Through a long trial, held behind closed doors, those who refused to renounce their God Jehovah were sentenced to prison for five years, and some were sentenced again after the first term expired. Those still in prison at the

30. (a) What was Brother Russell's conclusion after visiting Japan? (b) What problems did Jehovah's witnesses have to face once the preaching work got under way in Japan?

time of the American occupation in 1945 were released.

³¹ The Society had hopes of opening up its Christian work again among the more than 82 million people in Japan and did so in 1949, when a number of Japanese Hawaiians trained at the missionary school of Gilead reached Japan. By 1950 the Watch Tower Society sent twenty-six missionaries to Japan and by 1960 there were seventy missionaries. By 1970 there were eighty. Did those preaching the good news of the Kingdom have good success? Today the number of Japanese people doing the work Jesus said would be done totals 9,478.

³² The Society started printing the *Watchtower* magazine in Japanese in 1951 and then the *Awake!* magazine in 1956. And today we are printing upward of 7,400,000 magazines every year in Japan. There are now 228 Christian congregations of Jehovah's witnesses there. Look at all of Asia by means of this chart and see what has happened in thirty years.

In the Lands where year work was done	ASIA	Number of Jehovah's witnesses preaching	Number of Gilead graduates
1940	7	541	—
1950	15	1,485	69
1960	26	11,568	265
1970	28	30,693	257

ON TO EUROPE

³³ On the day of Pentecost of 33 C.E. there were some people in Jerusalem from Rome, and undoubtedly they took back the message of the Kingdom to others in Rome. But much later Paul and other disciples of Christ Jesus carried the message into Greece, Italy and perhaps Spain, as well as other parts of Europe. Today the good news of God's kingdom is being

31, 32. (a) Give evidence to show that the work of Jehovah's witnesses has moved forward since 1949. (b) Show wherein progress has been made in Asia in the past thirty years.

33. To what extent is God's kingdom being preached in Europe today, and how have Jehovah's witnesses proved to be different from the denominations of Christendom?

preached throughout all of Europe, in all the countries of that continent. Even during World War I and throughout World War II when all religious denominations of Christendom were at war with one another, cutting one another's throats, the true Christian witnesses of Jehovah were busy preaching the good news of God's kingdom. They suffered for it because they would not join in killing their neighbors, and in Germany thousands were put in prisons or sent to Hitler's concentration camps.

³⁴ When Hitler took power in January of 1933 it became apparent that he was determined to wield his power ruthlessly against Jehovah's Christian witnesses. He did ban their work in 1933, and thousands upon thousands of Jehovah's witnesses were hunted down like animals and arrested. For many months special courts were busy sentencing people who prior to that time had never appeared before a court for any wrongdoing. Terms of imprisonment were for five and more years. Later many were sent to concentration camps, and from all outward appearances it looked as though Jehovah's Christian witnesses were to become extinct.

³⁵ In 1932 when the last report was received from Germany and before the ban was placed on Jehovah's witnesses, there were 14,453 sharing in the Kingdom declaration. By 1946, following the collapse of the German war machine and the opening of the gates of the concentration camps—but not the graves—there were 11,415 dedicated Christians still in the great contest for the faith. Ten years later this number grew to 50,530, and by 1970 in Western Germany there were 86,252 Christian witnesses of Jehovah. The survivors never

34. What position did Hitler and his government take toward Jehovah's witnesses?

35. (a) Between 1932 and 1946 what happened to Jehovah's witnesses in Germany? (b) Since that time how has Jehovah blessed his people in that land on both sides of the Iron Curtain?

gave up! They preached! There is another group in West Berlin, now numbering 5,396 Christian witnesses, going from house to house. And in East Germany, where the witness work is carried on behind the Berlin wall and Iron Curtain, there are many more thousands of Witnesses telling East Germans, now under Communistic rule, about God's kingdom, but not with the same freedom of speech as Jehovah's Christian witnesses have west of the Iron Curtain. Proving faithful to right principles brought death to thousands of Jehovah's witnesses in Germany, but the survivors brought salvation to tens of thousands, and they are still helping people to get a firm hold on everlasting life.

³⁶ France has always been a staunch Catholic religious center. History shows how powerful cardinals often ruled in French politics. However, in the "last days" the good news of God's kingdom had to be preached, and it began to be around the year 1904. It had a small beginning, and by August 27, 1919, the work of Jehovah's witnesses was legally recognized. In 1940, because of Hitler's take-over, the 320 publishers of the good news were forced underground. But after the war in 1947 when the ban was lifted, there appeared on the scene of action 2,380 persons. Even under years of difficult conditions the preaching had continued with fine success. At the first international assembly held in Paris, in the Palais des Sports in 1951, 10,456 persons came out to hear the Society's president talk on the subject "Will Religion Meet the World Crisis?" In that year there were 7,136 of Jehovah's witnesses preaching God's kingdom through-

36. How have the people of France been helped to hear the good news of the Kingdom?

out France. Today, just about twenty-three years after Jehovah's witnesses were again legally recognized in 1947, we find a fast-growing organization, with 36,721 ministers giving a mighty witness to Jehovah God and his Son, Christ Jesus.

³⁷ A new and flourishing era opened up in Italy for Jehovah's witnesses immediately after World War II. Even while the second world war was on, the Society invited some Italian-Americans to attend Gilead School and to prepare themselves for service in Italy as soon as it was possible to send evangelizers in. The first one arrived in October 1946. There were only 120 of Jehovah's Christian witnesses preaching in that land then. In this Catholic-dominated country where Communism is growing very rapidly the people are very unsettled and, strange



as it may seem, are anxious to know what the Bible really teaches. In 1970 there were 372 congregations of Jehovah's witnesses scattered throughout Italy from the tip of the boot up to the border of Switzerland, with 18,636 Christian witnesses of Jehovah telling the people the truth from God's Word, and exposing the error of the crumbling organization of Christendom. It takes faith to stand for God's kingdom and against the Hierarchy of the Vatican.

³⁸ Jehovah's Christian witnesses are growing fast in three of the strongest Catholic countries of Europe. But this is true for all of Europe. Jesus said that the message he gave to his disciples should

37. When did the preaching work begin to move forward in Italy, and what problems have Jehovah's witnesses had to meet and surmount?

38. (a) What prophecy of Daniel is in course of fulfillment now? (b) How much progress has been made in Europe in the past thirty years?

be preached to the most distant part of the earth. It is being done today and thousands upon thousands of persons now know that the prophecy of Daniel is having fulfillment wherein it states: "In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be brought to ruin. And the kingdom itself will not be passed on to any other people. It will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, and it itself will stand to times indefinite." (Dan. 2:44) Do you believe what Jehovah God inspired Daniel to write? This chart should help you to see that hundreds of thousands of dedicated persons do.

EUROPE			
In the year	Lands where work was done	Number of Jehovah's witnesses preaching	Number of Gilead graduates
1940	13	17,414	—
1950	24	142,675	101
1960	26	337,053	305
1970	30	442,707	339

ON TO THE ISLANDS OF THE ATLANTIC, CARIBBEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN

³⁹ The disciples of Christ Jesus visited the islands of the Mediterranean. But as for the islands of the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, and the western hemisphere, these were parts of the world unheard of. But today all these places are included in "the most distant part of the earth."

⁴⁰ Jehovah's witnesses feel the responsibility to preach and teach and want to 'make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them, teaching them to observe all the things Christ commanded.' (Matt. 28:19, 20) So a great preaching and teaching work must reach out to the islands.

⁴¹ The Dominican Republic received its

39, 40. Where else has the Kingdom message gone in modern times, and why do Jehovah's witnesses feel a heavy responsibility in this regard?

41, 42. (a) How was interference brought to bear against the Kingdom preaching of Jehovah's witnesses in the Dominican Republic? (b) To what extent were they persecuted in that land?

first missionaries from the Watchtower Bible School of Gilead in the year 1945. When these missionaries arrived, there was no one known to be a witness of Jehovah. Up until 1949 there was very little opposition to their evangelizing work. But in that year a Roman Catholic priest opposed the activity and threatened to have some of the missionaries put out of the country. By this time there were twenty-two missionaries in various cities of this land. The Catholic priests were warning their parishioners not to have anything to do with Jehovah's witnesses. Later they induced the police to take the names of those of their church attending the meetings of Jehovah's witnesses. By June of 1950 the branch servant was called to the office of the Secretary of the Interior and given instructions to the effect that the propagating work of Jehovah's witnesses was against the law of the land and was banned.

⁴² During the period of this ban the Witnesses met in private homes of interested people. For a short time in 1956 the opposition lessened, but then suddenly a great persecution fell upon all of Jehovah's witnesses throughout the Dominican Republic. The Witnesses were sought out, beaten and jailed. The Roman Catholic priests took the lead in heaping reproach upon them. They used sound cars, beginning early in the morning telling the people not to talk to Jehovah's witnesses and to burn their literature or to give it to the priest to burn. Some of the homes of Jehovah's witnesses were stoned by Catholic youths egged on by the priests. The missionaries were expelled. The reason—telling the truths that Jesus spoke in his day.

⁴³ After a few years the government changed, the Catholic church lost much of its hold and influence, not only with the

43. Then what changes took place, resulting in an expanded witness?

government, but with the people. The Watchtower missionaries were allowed to return in 1960. Today there are thirty-five missionaries in the Dominican Republic and a fine Christian organization of 3,591, and the people are listening. In this little island of the Caribbean Jehovah's witnesses suffered much, but the joy of returning and enlightening the people is worth it all. They entered the great contest for the faith and stayed with it. Jehovah blessed his witnesses, and today they are preaching the good news of God's kingdom everywhere throughout the island.

⁴⁴ Cuba, too, has an interesting history as a Catholic country. As far back as 1918 the good news of the kingdom of Jehovah God reached this country. The first congregation was organized in 1922, and there was a convention attended by 100 persons in Palma Soriano, Oriente. The preaching of the good news continued to make steady progress, and by 1944 it was possible to send some of the graduates of the Watchtower School of Gilead to Cuba. By the end of that year there were 1,260 Witnesses. The work grew steadily, and by 1959 there were 12,140 of Jehovah's witnesses in the island, with twenty-two missionaries. Then came a change in government, and for a few years there were no particular difficulties. Finally, however, the importation of all literature was held up and local printing was stopped. But the work of giving the witness to God's

44. (a) When was the first congregation of Jehovah's witnesses organized in Cuba, and what progress was made up until 1959? (b) What does the report show since then?

kingdom continued in private homes through the Bible study work. Pressures grew against the preaching of God's kingdom, and many Kingdom Halls were closed and some burned, but still the ministry continued. There are many more of Jehovah's witnesses in Cuba today than there were back in 1965 when the last report of their activity appeared in the *Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses*. At that time there were 18,078 regular workers. From 1959 to 1965 the number of Witnesses grew from 12,000 to 18,000. No matter what the handicaps in a land may be, a true, live Christian is going to preach and teach and keep a strong grip on life.

⁴⁵ Cyprus is in the Mediterranean and was visited quite often by early Christians. Congregations were established there. The persecution of Christians that followed the martyrdom of Stephen and the subsequent dispersion resulted in some disciples' going to Cyprus, where they witnessed to the resident Jews. Certain Cypriot Christians went to the city of Antioch, opposite Cyprus near the Syrian coast, and preached with much success among people who, like themselves, were Greek speaking. (Acts 11:19, 20) When Paul and Barnabas, accompanied by John Mark, were sent out from Antioch on their first missionary tour, their initial territory was in the home island of Barnabas, namely, Cyprus.

⁴⁶ Today eight evangelizers from Gilead School have been sent to the island. Twelve congregations are established and 562 ministers of God's kingdom speak



45-47. (a) What early history do we have concerning Cyprus, and who went on their first missionary tour there? (b) What has happened in modern times? (c) Give a résumé of the preaching work in the past thirty years in the Atlantic, Mediterranean and Caribbean islands.

peace to the inhabitants of a troubled land.

⁴⁷ Here is a progress report for the islands of the Atlantic, Caribbean and Mediterranean over a span of thirty years.

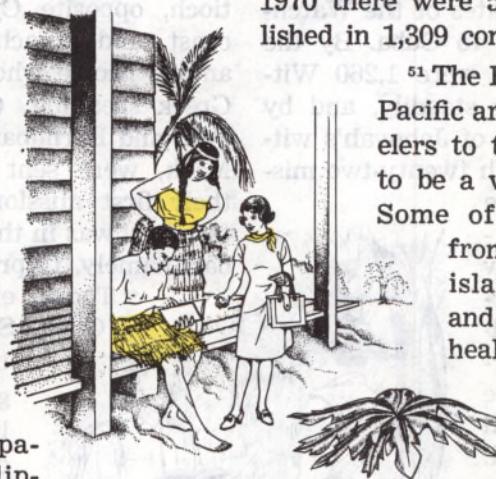
ISLANDS OF THE
ATLANTIC, MEDITERRANEAN AND CARIBBEAN

In the year	Lands where work was done	Number of Jehovah's witnesses preaching	Number of Gilead graduates
1940	6	803	—
1950	16	12,938	148
1960	43	25,508	187
1970	42	49,387	163

ON TO THE ISLANDS OF THE PACIFIC

⁴⁸ The islands of the Pacific are numerous and Jehovah's witnesses have not reached them all. Looking first at the Philippine Islands, we find this country made up of 7,100 islands extending 1,150 miles north and south and 682 miles east and west. Eleven of the islands comprise the bulk of the area. Only 462 islands have areas of more than one square mile. Going back to the year 1912, we find that Charles T. Russell visited Manila and delivered a public address in the Manila Opera House. The interest aroused by his lectures caused many persons to write the Watch Tower Society in America for literature for themselves and many of them, so convinced that what they heard was the truth, took up the distribution of the books to friends.

⁴⁹ On December 7, 1941, war broke out in the Pacific. The Japanese invaded the Philippine Islands. The branch servant, an American citizen, was interned by the Jap-



anese. The branch office was closed. Jehovah's witnesses were hunted down. But many kept themselves free and continued to declare the good news of the Kingdom right straight through the war by preaching in small towns and in the mountains where many witnesses of Jehovah fled with the refugees. A good work was done.

⁵⁰ In 1947 N. H. Knorr, president of the Watch Tower Society, visited the newly reestablished branch office and gave a public talk to 4,200 persons. In that year 2,902 ministers were engaging in house-to-house work. It was not long before many of the Society's publications were published in the numerous languages of the Philippine Republic. Then many Filipino brothers were called to Gilead School. These were trained and sent back to the Philippine Islands to help in better organizing the preaching work. By 1960 there were 31,608 associated with Jehovah's witnesses in preaching the good news, and in 1970 there were 54,789. They are established in 1,309 congregations.

⁵¹ The Fiji Islands of the South Pacific are well known, and travelers to the islands find Fijians to be a very interesting people. Some of Jehovah's witnesses from Australia visited these islands in the "twenties" and it was not long before a healthy congregation was established. This small group of Christians did not pass unnoticed by the opposers of the Bible truth. Clergymen began denouncing the message.

48. After Charles T. Russell preached in the Philippines in 1912, how did people respond?

49. How did Jehovah's witnesses preach in the Philippine Islands during World War II?

50. What has contributed to the expansion of the Kingdom work in the Philippines since 1947?

51, 52. (a) How were pressures brought against the work of Jehovah's witnesses in the Fiji Islands? (b) What has been the situation since 1945?

In 1932 the governor of the islands even jailed one of the Witnesses for being a Christian. Legislation was soon passed prohibiting the entry of Bible literature of the Watch Tower Society. Even books that had been shipped into the country were gathered up and burned. However, by January of 1941 the prohibition order against the importation of the Society's literature was made even more stringent and severe penalties were imposed upon those found with literature in their possession.

⁵² After the end of the second world war the prohibition on literature was eased, and in 1945 the government proclamation was that literature approved by the government could be allowed in the country. Public meetings are now freely held. It proved to be a long, steady and persistent fight for the faith on the part of Jehovah's witnesses in Fiji, but a good witness is being given, and November 9 to 12, 1969, an international assembly was held in Suva with 1,621 attending.

⁵³ The people of the South Pacific have a love for righteousness and a love for life. They have a right to be given the opportunity to learn about life everlasting. Does your faith move you to offer your help? The following chart tells of the progress made by Jehovah's witnesses in this area, which to many seems to be the most distant part of the earth.

ISLANDS OF THE PACIFIC

In the year	Lands where work was done	Number of Jehovah's witnesses preaching	Number of Gilead graduates
1940	4	3,819	—
1950	6	16,807	25
1960	17	52,671	82
1970	30	91,782	150

53. Show wherein progress has been made in the South Pacific during the past thirty years.



ON TO NORTH AMERICA

⁵⁴ In the fifteenth century a "new world" was found, and in the centuries that followed, inhabitants of Europe journeyed westward. Many persons interested in freedom of religion fled to North America. They looked for a new land free from governments where the church and the state were lovers and together oppressed their subjects.

Many new religious denominations were formed over the years and now the United States alone has over 270, most of them seeking freedom from the traditions of powerful religious leaders. In 1884 a small group of earnest Bible students incorporated what is now the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania. It was chartered to disseminate Bible truth in various languages with emphasis on preaching the good news of God's kingdom. The Watch Tower Society had a very small beginning, but it has grown in eighty-six years and now its associates are capable of giving the worldwide witness Jesus said should be given in these "last days." Charles T. Russell, its first president, was a great preacher and a fighter for the true faith. He traveled the length and breadth of the United States and lectured in many countries around the world, declaring the second presence of Christ and God's kingdom by Christ Jesus as man's only hope for salvation. He also showed that the religious teachings of the orthodox clergy, Protestant, Catholic and Jewish, were based on traditions of men. He proved from the Bible that there is no hellfire and brimstone for human souls

54. (a) Why did many persons begin fleeing from Europe to America from and after the fifteenth century, resulting in what religiously? (b) What had its beginning in 1884, resulting in what religiously?

after death. In fact, it was often written that Russell took the fire out of hell. He proved from the Scriptures that man does not have a soul, but that he is a soul and that when man dies he goes into the common grave of mankind and there he remains until the resurrection of the dead to a paradise earth. He proved there is no Trinity. What Pastor Russell did was revive Bible study, and he got people to put their faith in God and his written Word rather than the theories and fiction of men. This brought the wrath of the clergy down on his head and on the heads of all working with him. But Jehovah's Christian witnesses are still here, still declaring the truths of the Bible.

⁵⁵ During World War I, J. F. Rutherford, the second president of the Watch Tower Society, was put in prison in 1918 along with other prominent members of the Society because of his energetically preaching God's kingdom as man's only hope. The clergy were the instigators of that action, but by 1919-1920 through the Court of Appeals the charges against them of being seditious were all dropped and these faithful men were once more seen in public declaring to thousands the good news of God's kingdom.

⁵⁶ During the second world war Jehovah's witnesses were again persecuted. Many were put in prison in the United States. Kingdom Halls were burned and many of Jehovah's witnesses were chased out of cities and towns for going from house to house telling the people the message of the Bible. From 1939 to 1945 Jehovah's witnesses went through some of their most difficult years. But, nevertheless, they fought a fine fight of faith. When the second world war began in 1939 there were 41,902 publishers of the Kingdom in

55. How did the pressures of World War I affect the preaching of God's kingdom by Jehovah's witnesses?
56. Did the persecution against Jehovah's Christian witnesses stop their preaching work during and after World War II? Why?

the United States. But by 1946 there were 65,922 associated and now there are 388,920 Witnesses. Have you met some of them? Did you listen to what they had to say when they called at your door? They will continue to try to reach you in 1971, and as long as "this good news of the kingdom" has to be preached.

⁵⁷ Canada has a similar story to tell. The Canadian government banned the work on July 4, 1940, when there were 6,813 of Jehovah's witnesses in the country. The branch office in Toronto was closed. All of the literature was seized, but the Christian witnesses worked in their ministry with the Bible alone. Whatever publications they may have had in their own homes they also used. The ban against the Society was finally removed in Canada in 1944, and when the reports were received again from all the congregations many more were shown to be a part of the organization, for now 10,345 were associated. While underground for four years they put up a hard fight for the faith and they had success. The record shows they are working just as hard now and showing real faith. Canada now has 46,808 witnesses of Jehovah.

⁵⁸ For a moment consider the increase in North America, for it speaks well of the house-to-house preaching and the conducting of home Bible studies. Maybe if you listen carefully to God's Word you too will want to enter the great contest for the faith.

NORTH AMERICA			
In the year	Lands where work was done	Number of Jehovah's witnesses preaching	Number of Gilead graduates
1940	7	65,577	—
1950	12	138,108	492
1960	12	319,560	858
1970	12	498,736	823

57. How is Canada's story similar to what happened in the United States, and what blessings has Jehovah given?

58. Show how thirty years of preaching in North America has resulted in a great increase in the number of persons who have entered the great contest of the faith.

ON TO SOUTH AMERICA

⁵⁹ South America, religiously speaking, has always been a stronghold of the Catholic church, but their citadel is crumbling. The education that the Catholic organization gave its people in the United States and Europe it failed to give its people in South America. Why did the Catholic church deliberately keep its people uneducated and illiterate for centuries?

Hundreds of evangelizers from the Watchtower Bible School of Gilead learned the Spanish and Portuguese languages and then taught thousands of Catholics in Latin America to read and write so that they could put faith in God's written Word, and they are doing so today. Practically the entire organization of Jehovah's witnesses in South America is made up of former Catholics. They are now fighting the fine fight of the faith.

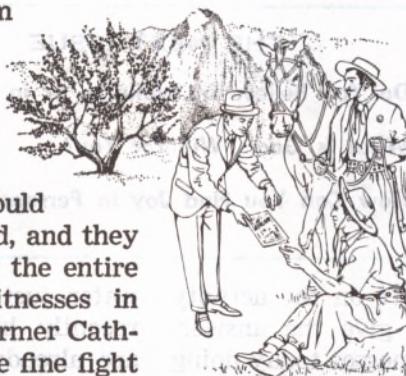
⁶⁰ In 1945 there were 415 associated with Jehovah's witnesses in Argentina. In 1947 when the first missionaries were sent there the work moved ahead very rapidly. Excellent progress was made even though the work was banned due to religious pressure in 1950. Then in 1955 there was a revolution in the country and, following that, Jehovah's witnesses gained more freedom to preach from house to house. In the year 1970 there were 18,763 proclaiming the good news from house to house.

⁶¹ The Catholic people of Brazil are hungry for the truth from God's Word. In 1923 there were only eight persons in that vast country that were preaching God's kingdom as man's only hope. The Society's

59. What educational problem have Jehovah's witnesses met in their Kingdom preaching in South America, and how have they overcome the problem?

60. What increases of activity has Argentina enjoyed?

61. (a) Outline the increase in the number of those preaching God's Kingdom in Brazil from 1923 to the present. (b) How has thirty years of preaching affected South America?



evangelizers were able to get into Brazil in 1945 and at that time the record shows there were 394 witnesses of Jehovah in the land. These few ministers moved out in all directions and continued to preach to Catholics, and they listened to what Jehovah's witnesses had to say. What an ingathering in Brazil for lovers of truth! By 1960 there were 20,321 persons in the congregations of Jehovah's witnesses.

The organization has now grown to 64,199 in 1970, a great loss to the Catholic church. But now these many new ones are helping other Catholic people to establish their faith in God's Word and to fight the fine fight of the faith. South America, too, could

be called part of the distant parts of the earth. But let the following chart speak for itself as to the progress made because of sending witnesses of Christ that far.

SOUTH AMERICA

In the Lands where work was done	Number of Jehovah's witnesses preaching	Number of Gilead graduates
1940	8	561
1950	13	7,630
1960	13	38,651
1970	13	119,260

WITNESSING AROUND THE WORLD IN 1970

⁶² Jesus said the field is the world. (Matt. 13:38) So Jehovah's witnesses have the responsibility and are declaring the good news of the Kingdom around the world. It takes stalwart, faithful and de-

62. (a) What qualities are needed by those who preach God's kingdom? (b) What does the worldwide report show in regard to: lands hearing the Kingdom message and persons exhibiting faith and preaching? (c) To what extent were home Bible studies freely conducted in the past year, and what procedure was followed in such studies? (d) How many new ones have been baptized, and what did that mean for them in their personal lives?

termined men and women to keep at this work year after year. Paul wrote Timothy and said: "Pursue righteousness, godly devotion, faith, love, endurance, mildness of temper. Fight the fine fight of the faith, get a firm hold on the everlasting life for which you were called and you offered the fine public declaration in front of many witnesses." (1 Tim. 6:11, 12) That is good counsel, and Jehovah's witnesses have "offered the fine public declaration in front of many witnesses." Can it be proved that they did so in 1970?

Let the worldwide report on the activity of Jehovah's witnesses give the answer. Are these Christian witnesses today doing what Jesus said they should do, namely, be "witnesses of me . . . to the most distant part of the earth"? (Acts 1:8) First let it be noted that the reports show that Jehovah's witnesses have been active in 206 lands, and this includes all the principal countries of the world. Secondly, no less than 1,483,430 persons engaged in this worldwide witness work during 1970 and they devoted 267,581,120 hours to talking about the Bible from house to house, and included in their message was the good news of God's kingdom. But much more was done. Persons truly interested in the Bible were helped with free home Bible studies conducted by Jehovah's Christian witnesses. Many of these were arranged for, and the annual report shows that 1,146,378 weekly home Bible studies were conducted. That means that the teacher is invited into the home and he sits down with the interested ones with Bible opened, and together they study some Bible subject every week for at least one hour for

a six-month, or twenty-six-week, period. These Christian witnesses of Jehovah take the time to explain what the Bible has to say and to answer questions. What have the results been through this home Bible study method of preaching in 1970? They have been remarkable. There were 164,193 persons who left their former religious affiliation, changed their way of living, and

took their stand on Jehovah's side, dedicating their lives to the doing of Jehovah's will. They became disciples of Jesus Christ and, of course, were baptized in

THE NEXT ISSUE

- Do You Believe in Evolution or in Creation?
- What Is God's Will for You?
- How Can You Find Joy in Personal Study?

water just as Jesus was. These 164,193 recently baptized witnesses of Jehovah are already preaching the good news of God's kingdom world wide. They have come from all races, peoples and tongues, and they will meet with the Witnesses three times a week and learn more during the five Bible study sessions in 26,524 congregations in all parts of the world. Would you be interested in that kind of weekly program? If you are going to put up a fine fight for the faith you must get involved in Bible teaching work.

⁶³ There is a great difference between those persons who belong to Christendom's religions and Jehovah's witnesses. Christendom requires little or nothing of their members except to make contributions to the church. At Christmas and Easter time much larger numbers than usual attend the church services. But as to one's beliefs and moral habits, it does not matter. There is no dedication of peoples' lives to the doing of God's will, or walking in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. The church mem-

63. (a) State the difference between Christendom's religions and Jehovah's witnesses. (b) Who are included in doing the discipling work?

bers of both Catholic and Protestant denominations, as well as their clergy, do not know anymore what Jesus meant when he said: "Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them . . . teaching them to observe all the things I have commanded you." (Matt. 28:19, 20) This was no meaningless statement on the part of Christ Jesus. He meant that every follower of his should be a witness of him wherever he lives, and that many would go to the most distant part of the earth to preach and make disciples. That is how Jehovah's witnesses feel about it. They take their commission seriously. That is why all of them must 'fight the fine fight of the faith and get a firm hold on the everlasting life.'

⁶⁴ Many men and women who are Jehovah's witnesses feel the urgency of spending all their time in preaching the Kingdom good news, and 13,426 have been assigned to what is called the special pioneer work. That means they spend 150 hours or more every month in preaching the good news in territory where they are needed, and often where there is no congregation of Jehovah's witnesses. In addition, there were, on the average, 1,295-911 congregation publishers who cannot spend all of their time in the ministry. They really do the greater part of the work in all parts of the earth, because they average anywhere from 10 to 20 hours a month in talking about the Bible's message. After doing their secular work and home duties they use all the time they can in the preaching of the good news of God's kingdom. Then there were 75,445 pioneers, who spend about 100 hours a month in this God-assigned work. This makes a grand total of 1,384,782 Witnesses on the average engaging in the ministry

64. (a) What are the activities of special pioneers, congregation publishers and regular pioneers as Jehovah's Christian witnesses? (b) What shows that many are interested in their work?

every month. This is marvelous, is it not? There are many more people interested in Jehovah's witnesses and their activity, and they showed it by attending the Memorial of the death of Christ Jesus. This was celebrated on March 22, 1970, and the worldwide attendance was 3,226,168.

⁶⁵ Readers of the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines will be interested in knowing that during the past year Jehovah's witnesses around the world obtained 2,464,196 new subscriptions for these magazines. In addition to that, they distributed 204,758,521 individual copies to interested persons who are not subscribers for these two fine publications.

⁶⁶ The people with whom Jehovah's witnesses place literature are entitled to have return visits so their questions can be answered if they have any. In this activity Jehovah's witnesses made return visits during the year to the number of 121,226-605. The reason for all this activity is to build faith and help others to get a firm hold on the everlasting life. Over the years this is what has been done. (For details see the complete chart of activity on pages 26-29.)

WORLDWIDE REPORT

In the year	Lands where work was done	Number of Jehovah's witnesses preaching	Number of Gilead graduates
1940	56	95,327	—
1950	115	373,430	1,086
1960	179	916,332	2,255
1970	206	1,483,430	2,561

⁶⁷ The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society has numerous printing plants throughout the world, and all of them are staffed by Jehovah's witnesses. The main plant is in Brooklyn, New York. They also have printing plants in Canada, England,

65, 66. (a) What part do Bible literature and return visits on interested persons play in the work of Jehovah's witnesses? (b) What does the worldwide report of the past thirty years show?

67, 68. (a) Who does the printing of the Bible publications for Jehovah's witnesses? (b) How extensive was the printing of Bible literature? (c) Why is faith so necessary to do this work?

1970 SERVICE YEAR REPORT OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES WORLD WIDE

Country	1969 Av. Pubs.	1970 Av. Pubs.	% Inc. over 1969	Peak Pubs. 1970	No. Bptzd.	Av. Plo. Pubs.	No. of Congs.	Total Literature	Total Hours	New Subs.	Individual Magazines	Back-Calls	Avg. Bible Studies
U.S. of America	343,673	371,561	8	388,920	38,790	24,448	5,492	10,041,342	69,791,988	1,459,786	86,083,604	33,220,102	295,468
Bermuda	102	109	7	118	29	5	1	2,926	16,218	614	19,122	10,452	88
Alaska	672	765	14	814	106	64	12	17,768	149,104	2,664	152,880	66,232	588
Argentina	15,698	17,762	13	18,763	2,365	1,299	325	396,440	3,848,150	29,079	3,458,201	2,021,937	18,620
Australia	19,838	21,474	8	22,203	2,544	1,946	465	352,367	5,078,024	30,100	4,504,949	2,090,571	15,505
Austria	8,648	9,182	6	9,618	938	451	175	211,133	1,597,224	6,002	1,855,409	819,953	5,895
Bahamas	353	381	8	411	49	21	7	18,157	67,314	2,140	82,771	35,167	389
Barbados	755	810	7	869	133	32	14	16,254	117,379	1,198	90,354	52,361	611
Bequia	24	22	-8*	23	2	3	1	244	6,176	10	3,384	2,988	18
Carriacou	23	26	13	29	2	3	1	308	7,749	13	2,463	3,647	36
Grenada	163	179	10	194	13	16	5	3,812	40,139	423	32,999	21,980	217
St. Lucia	110	138	25	167	10	19	3	4,420	40,976	338	27,839	22,184	234
St. Vincent	100	104	4	116	8	10	2	1,471	24,257	77	15,075	11,875	131
Belgium	11,360	12,579	11	13,271	1,792	606	214	266,980	2,257,267	20,467	2,374,270	1,111,451	7,727
Bolivia	840	964	15	1,168	241	201	30	58,653	413,081	3,090	317,866	160,363	1,743
Brazil	53,716	60,139	12	64,199	8,501	2,832	1,117	983,368	10,277,523	53,788	6,051,883	4,284,116	52,768
British Honduras	359	400	11	441	43	39	11	11,152	98,685	704	90,233	42,681	471
British Isles	55,876	59,705	7	61,913	5,273	4,640	891	860,479	11,799,580	46,560	11,591,078	5,984,701	44,222
Malta	34	35	3	37	4	4	1	346	9,130	26	1,219	3,825	45
Burma	431	510	18	559	76	115	18	5,331	230,625	2,259	70,238	93,317	708
Canada	43,265	45,734	6	46,808	3,953	2,800	788	677,349	8,377,969	72,194	7,530,369	3,654,474	27,321
Central Afr. Rep.	1,039	1,128	9	1,234	263	124	28	10,755	326,604	165	17,739	140,364	1,668
Tchad	42	49	17	54	9	11	1	1,502	23,306	56	6,904	10,339	105
Ceylon	261	277	6	292	21	61	8	11,333	118,590	1,981	92,955	44,792	410
Chile	5,910	6,923	17	7,422	1,396	441	116	291,106	1,419,507	9,611	1,279,893	658,861	8,182
Colombia	5,485	6,588	20	7,083	1,650	667	139	207,059	1,690,812	5,273	958,136	791,896	8,416
Congo (Brazzaville)	1,258	1,437	14	1,595	261	110	29	14,372	378,488	308	47,692	150,168	1,586
Gabon	180	242	34	302	63	17	4	8,485	56,991	149	23,646	21,819	287
Congo (Kinshasa)	10,908	13,181	21	15,401	1,906	1,002	194	128,474	3,628,784	3,113	494,652	1,288,390	16,077
Costa Rica	2,850	2,973	4	3,123	249	125	79	32,358	490,445	557	205,725	208,627	2,705
Cyprus	485	527	9	562	34	27	12	5,855	85,602	336	33,337	36,764	308
Dahomey	1,509	1,733	15	1,807	241	290	53	25,766	626,613	440	55,254	238,900	1,964
Denmark	11,164	11,769	5	12,569	804	777	210	129,840	1,924,464	5,768	2,714,616	884,673	6,660
Faroe Islands	41	45	10	55	5	13	2	2,451	22,046	149	34,057	9,000	56
Greenland	24	25	4	27	1	7	1	2,758	6,301	40	7,243	3,921	21
Dominican Republic	2,911	3,378	16	3,591	812	466	63	90,760	1,060,489	5,902	747,275	525,565	5,970
Ecuador	2,213	2,717	23	2,949	670	370	46	83,898	856,089	3,357	594,686	409,646	4,148
El Salvador	1,290	1,545	20	1,755	272	168	25	48,550	433,576	1,776	283,336	189,633	2,338
Fiji	366	410	12	453	66	57	8	17,502	126,093	1,073	107,957	45,002	561
American Samoa	39	44	13	47	9	4	1	4,638	11,575	230	15,281	5,139	47
Gilbert & Ellice Isls.	7	8	14	11	—	—	—	69	771	—	36	328	6
New Caledonia	118	145	23	162	26	6	1	5,552	25,914	552	19,873	13,700	151
New Hebrides	11	10	-9*	14	—	1	1	150	1,580	24	675	1,109	15
Niue	13	10	-23*	13	—	1	1	224	951	3	788	683	16
Tahiti	124	143	15	155	38	5	1	6,819	31,722	658	38,761	14,544	167
Tonga	16	15	-6*	19	—	1	—	85	3,695	9	3,035	2,151	11
Western Samoa	87	83	-5*	92	10	5	1	2,185	18,480	73	8,140	6,693	86
Finland	9,869	10,250	4	10,620	735	671	292	188,219	1,748,878	17,619	2,127,215	913,922	6,702
France	29,754	34,224	15	36,721	4,887	1,334	583	781,137	6,166,592	75,093	6,545,866	3,332,848	27,070
Algeria	62	45	-27*	74	10	3	1	651	9,260	191	3,056	4,921	56
Tunisia	30	30	—	34	6	—	1	111	3,128	24	387	2,705	30
Germany, West	81,051	84,421	4	86,252	5,503	3,717	1,078	1,312,211	13,402,020	45,682	16,268,048	6,880,722	40,224
West Berlin	5,297	5,336	1	5,396	325	178	44	101,182	786,902	2,491	1,049,191	493,376	2,312
Ghana	11,937	13,482	13	14,223	2,500	1,017	289	283,593	3,290,676	6,577	691,041	1,441,834	15,043
Ivory Coast	294	389	32	431	132	65	10	24,824	157,617	708	92,275	88,043	999

Upper Volta	1	2	100	3	1,104	1	709	389	106	526	2	285	305	4
Greece	12,653	14,096	11	14,622								161,760	1,499,352	7,791
Guadeloupe	1,090	1,308	20	1,435	338	76	18	30,307	259,414	2,077	208,754	146,825	1,374	
French Guiana	105	118	12	129	27	6	1	4,630	22,940	343	20,272	12,244	174	
Martinique	404	534	32	604	152	42	6	21,054	120,011	1,706	112,166	53,701	676	
Guatemala	1,752	2,109	20	2,250	300	223	38	66,237	564,381	1,981	392,118	223,478	2,863	
Guyana	1,076	1,037	-4*	1,079	125	120	28	35,504	273,299	2,003	210,933	121,567	1,312	
Haiti	1,561	1,794	15	2,049	256	171	31	24,863	505,071	319	98,113	236,313	3,190	
Hawaii	2,866	3,180	11	3,340	549	447	37	96,312	906,428	12,467	841,387	460,001	3,675	
Guam	44	64	45	83	10	10	1	3,864	18,651	569	21,475	9,346	66	
Marshall Islands	44	50	14	55	6	11	1	2,895	19,643	25	4,065	7,039	122	
Palau	7	14	100	15	5	1,114	9,165	52	5,196	5,365	45			
Ponape	34	44	29	62	8	10	1	2,789	15,862	8	4,161	7,282	79	
Saipan	7	10	43	15	2	4	431	6,976	17	4,505	2,504	20		
Truk	7	8	14	11	2	207	3,903	2	1,933	1,926	19			
Yap	4	6	50	8	2	4	341	6,080	32	734	3,358	41		
Honduras	1,096	1,234	13	1,341	231	162	21	44,192	375,997	1,823	254,027	148,917	1,784	
Hong Kong	218	222	2	235	26	30	8	13,759	73,621	2,651	97,124	32,603	312	
Macao	6	7	17	7	1	2	109	2,748	395	2,193	1,036	16		
Iceland	128	125	-2*	132	5	25	3	7,803	46,855	480	38,164	20,530	137	
India	2,693	3,070	14	3,347	371	375	65	99,365	865,852	7,377	301,906	309,068	3,024	
Nepal	3	New	4	4				5	114	21	95	27		
Indonesia	1,802	2,248	25	2,563	438	567	76	165,395	1,088,470	3,760	327,921	397,599	4,111	
Ireland	825	941	14	987	80	197	21	28,200	369,442	941	254,079	136,462	651	
Israel	155	159	3	167	12	18	4	27,463	42,011	321	24,421	17,984	156	
Italy	14,343	17,449	22	18,636	2,621	985	372	950,773	3,714,468	48,118	3,873,233	2,050,212	17,449	
Libya	40	27	-33*	41			1	89	1,924		142	978	15	
San Marino	8	15	88	21	5	1	720	2,323	14	2,411	967	11		
Somalia	1	1	1	1			77	121	4	85	33			
Jamaica	5,099	5,274	3	5,556	563	196	153	75,342	748,116	3,998	595,278	316,582	4,085	
Cayman Islands	11	12	9	14			1	419	2,067	37	1,196	710	4	
Japan	6,861	8,635	26	9,478	2,245	1,968	228	697,500	3,733,835	95,965	4,303,074	1,778,062	15,196	
Kenya	632	844	34	947	225	132	18	75,437	335,643	2,803	118,463	143,637	1,242	
Burundi	14	30	114	46	9	1	1	36	7,986	12	334	4,009	57	
Ethiopia	334	437	31	498	142	18	6	2,206	125,268	629	5,283	74,956	800	
Rwanda	6	7	17	9			2	83	1,867		10	631	4	
Seychelles	41	44	7	54	4	6	1	143	1,163	3	1,319	1,538	9	
Sudan	1,044	1,168	12	1,222	120	121	32	19,261	341,319	633	18,545	115,600	1,182	
Tanzania	64	86	34	97	7	17	2	9,299	39,382	432	18,439	22,106	136	
Uganda														
Korea	9,379	11,486	22	12,267	3,290	1,512	236	219,343	3,279,331	21,179	1,894,291	1,279,146	14,510	
Lebanon	1,073	1,201	12	1,267	152	74	26	89,167	262,269	17	345	109,392	987	
Abu Dhabi	2	2	2	2			2	66		5	34		1	
Bahrein Islands		1	New	1			1	1			6			
Iran	15	20	33	24	1	3	1	1,011	5,689	102	2,101	2,870	38	
Jordan	26	27	4	30	3	2	1	897	5,395	12	343	2,474	23	
Kuwait	5	6	20	9	2	1	2	29	327	4	8	256	4	
Qatar	1	1	1	1			2	68		1	59			
Saudi Arabia	2	2	3	3			41	202		36	106	2		
Syria	126	145	15	176	9	6	5	377	28,400	1	11,375	123		
Leewards (Antigua)	109	130	19	139	22	15	3	6,263	33,257	744	24,146	14,905	167	
Anguilla	13	14	8	15	1	2	1	390	3,192	16	1,990	1,474	12	
Dominica	169	177	5	186	22	23	7	4,057	49,064	230	19,115	20,190	202	
Montserrat	29	20	-31*	24	3	1	1	952	6,084	68	3,312	3,103	33	
Nevis	27	28	4	31	1	3	1	304	4,762	4	2,271	2,074	21	
St. Eustatius	1	1		1				33	147	6	37	112	3	
St. Kitts	92	104	13	111	17	8	4	2,457	22,404	208	13,067	11,203	99	
St. Martin	47	48	2	58	3	7	2	2,428	14,515	265	7,410	6,931	87	
Liberia	511	599	17	645	96	85	13	29,680	215,628	1,137	86,835	86,048	895	
Luxembourg	490	528	8	544	41	43	14	16,067	118,148	1,004	136,386	55,890	437	

Country	1969 Av. Pubs.	1970 Av. Pubs.	% Inc. over 1969	Peak Pubs. 1970	No. Bptzd.	Av. Plo. Pubs.	No. of Congs.	Total Literature	Total Hours	New Subs.	Individual Magazines	Back-Calls	Ay. Bible Studies
Malagasy Republic	345	415	20	469	92	82	11	35,636	173,416	2,204	124,406	77,000	776
Mauritius	181	211	17	238	47	29	5	6,544	66,033	230	35,050	25,257	356
Réunion	358	346	-3*	361	33	17	6	6,400	69,927	462	33,361	31,233	261
Rodrigues	12	15	25	19	5	4		663	7,900	23	1,738	2,812	24
Mexico	39,825	45,256	14	49,031	5,672	3,446	1,288	1,034,463	8,885,926	44,997	5,827,390	3,512,149	43,961
Morocco	135	162	20	181	23	18	4	8,058	46,548	1,076	41,939	21,935	170
Gibraltar	33	34	3	39	3	1	1	5,935	92	4,252	2,889	35	
Netherlands	16,784	17,706	5	18,261	1,678	974	233	214,863	2,986,224	13,322	2,579,028	1,313,163	9,029
Neth. Ant. (Curaçao)	297	320	8	339	46	14	5	12,331	60,949	1,969	64,778	31,132	334
Aruba	143	161	13	169	20	6	4	4,427	27,017	903	27,447	15,766	134
Bonaire	18	13	-28*	17		3	1	710	4,862	98	4,206	2,297	20
Newfoundland	783	844	8	902	95	92	33	23,152	225,469	2,689	240,374	104,219	634
New Zealand	5,051	5,322	5	5,574	690	386	100	80,894	1,038,228	6,843	1,026,967	470,685	3,699
Cook Islands	7	7		9		1		626	2,177	3	793	848	7
Nicaragua	1,097	1,321	20	1,446	163	127	27	35,045	331,054	982	248,489	175,493	1,779
Nigeria	49,342	62,641	27	85,358	10,268	6,798	1,065	683,331	18,084,879	17,590	1,506,848	6,845,148	75,109
Camereroon	11,153	10,299	-8*	14,012	1,732	754	275	62,923	2,258,882	2,488	233,470	1,036,120	9,884
Equatorial Guinea	278	275	-1*	443	62	42	4	11,291	112,876	223	10,927	49,908	537
Niger	22	24	9	27	1	13	1	795	24,752	64	3,522	9,621	106
Norway	4,810	5,183	8	5,555	400	245	151	136,040	786,368	7,474	986,273	375,327	2,764
Okinawa	355	402	13	450	58	71	9	37,346	139,253	2,413	182,931	58,192	581
Pakistan	142	150	6	159	11	30	4	9,994	58,162	2,435	42,916	23,682	217
Afghanistan	6	6		7		1	1	168	1,134	26	819	611	5
Panama	1,612	1,781	10	1,905	204	172	45	58,094	439,825	2,165	327,851	209,686	2,384
Papua	431	490	14	554	49	46	17	9,135	112,655	177	33,432	41,411	545
Bougainville Is.	2	9	350	16		1		550	1,795	33	1,476	801	10
Manus Island	13	15	15	17	2	2	1	202	2,739	2	631	1,082	17
New Britain	88	81	-8*	98	11	15	2	2,883	31,841	92	8,998	11,788	137
New Guinea	295	322	9	361	42	48	11	4,594	97,173	107	19,274	35,338	370
New Ireland	21	35	67	40	11	6	1	979	16,083	48	4,284	5,898	63
Solomon Islands	465	498	7	553	58	57	12	3,644	147,225		70,875		734
Paraguay	641	722	13	803	81	87	20	14,986	200,493	1,449	162,676	100,193	738
Peru	3,385	4,097	21	4,518	646	441	78	178,181	1,222,179	7,349	909,235	520,729	5,550
Philippines	45,479	50,117	10	54,789	7,145	5,525	1,309	486,752	11,887,989	32,788	4,255,941	3,775,286	37,960
Portugal	5,487	6,909	26	7,498	1,136	299	101	148,384	1,297,271	42	33,286	607,783	8,559
Angola	179	259	45	355	34	5	4	4,531	62,091	1	303	50,039	500
Azores	93	79	-15*	87	2	6	3	2,268	17,482	9	1,040	9,007	107
Cape Verde Islands	5	6	20	8	5			40	867	2	36	636	5
Madeira	57	69	21	79	14	3	2	1,915	11,562	577	6,029	8,029	81
Portuguese Guinea	1	1		1				6	42	2	42	42	6
Puerto Rico	5,042	6,334	26	6,940	1,260	428	105	366,271	1,384,432	44,873	1,779,986	640,215	7,758
Virgin Islands (British)	33	45	36	53	8	2	1	1,487	7,191	114	6,863	3,033	48
Virgin Islands (U.S.)	199	252	27	270	19	10	6	12,387	40,823	1,665	58,726	19,330	262
Rhodesia	10,147	10,747	6	11,598	1,480	712	343	136,580	2,359,151	3,799	313,498	882,108	9,988
Malawi	14,594	17,469	20	19,050	1,778	851	416	2,245	3,148,109	111	2,377	1,269,963	12,184
Mozambique	2,090	2,563	23	3,145	441	89	50	5,347	513,919	142	3,477	220,454	2,285
Senegal	141	158	12	177	22	35	2	10,003	74,826	806	47,908	35,742	349
Gambia	6	9	50	9		3	1	1,607	6,930	82	5,021	4,825	36
Mali	4	6	50	6	1	1		144	2,701	40	2,184	848	12
Mauritania	1	2	100	2				91	224	13	182	155	1
Sierra Leone	744	815	10	851	110	175	32	36,807	348,105	2,028	153,157	155,734	1,658
Guinea	98	124	27	166	24	34	5	5,811	67,169	190	14,685	27,531	293
Singapore	189	199	5	218	17	25	4	10,263	55,616	2,193	56,355	21,660	282
Malaysia	142	154	8	168	16	30	6	25,944	62,027	238	25,566	24,646	308
South Africa	19,233	20,588	7	21,716	2,644	1,363	413	509,766	4,459,972	33,296	2,368,839	1,633,094	18,353
Ascension Island	4	2	-50*	2				16	40	4	78	20	1
Botswana	167	168	1	202	20	24	4	4,778	53,137	100	9,531	16,513	242
Lesotho	304	368	21	406	33	40	9	7,364	107,437	199	14,253	41,183	449

St. Helena	28	46	64	51	51	20	2	1	442	6,616	27	4,105	3,247	50
South-West Africa	162	191	226	226	6	17	4	10,245	46,170	720	50,939	18,506	205	
Swaziland	601	615	2	11,041	51	54	10	9,662	170,347	382	37,442	60,243	734	
Spain	7,890	10,088	28	11,17	825	112	575,120	2,630,126	61	130,696	1,460,345	14,634		
Andorra	11	15	38	43	5	1	44	3	15,710	2,034	348	1,104	17	
Canary Islands	234	325	39	367	43	43	43	91,259	129,048	4	10,681	42,810	414	
Surinam	490	511	4	74	54	9	13,907	1,498	109,444	51,478	535	535		
Sweden	10,758	11,336	5	11,696	839	754	231	319,132	2,017,832	27,168	2,525,838	1,085,209	8,181	
Switzerland	6,841	7,308	7	17,545	678	178	145	189,233	1,036,344	12,003	1,421,825	559,767	5,237	
Liechtenstein	7	8	14	9	9	1	1	122	676	10	985	507	4	
Taiwan	1,023	1,087	6	1,135	63	69	38	12,146	213,980	4,004	101,794	65,281	807	
Thailand	342	356	4	380	41	69	18	15,494	127,868	3,974	121,662	45,067	404	
Cambodia	2	3	50	4	1	1	1	20	517	6	285	287	5	
Laos	20	20	23	23	9	11	1	17,253	175	6,313	6,689	711		
Vietnam	40	48	20	52	9	13	1	17,826	24,870	1,183	10,653	11,169	1234	
Togo	1,089	1,418	29	1,585	246	191	25	26,114	503,994	882	56,966	245,052	2,334	
Trinidad	1,950	2,081	5	2,133	284	159	38	57,360	439,047	4,003	338,851	208,653	2,476	
Tobago	66	85	29	3,199	456	16	2	2,343	25,730	262	19,566	11,473	148	
Uruguay	2,737	3,054	12	3,195	294	56	59,711	77,730	4,612	435,344	376,120	4,269		
Falkland Islands	2	2	2	2	2	2	12	233	1	1	977,519	703,482	7	
Venezuela	5,770	6,863	19	7,387	1,133	416	115	254,137	1,513,832	9,205	977,519	703,482	7	
Zambia	42,149	47,663	13	50,655	8,362	566	883	136,716	6,633,831	11,893	227,615	3,205,865	33,699	
195 Countries	1,136,619	1,256,843	10,6	1,350,413	154,427	87,200	22,698	26,899,403	245,603,248	2,463,970	203,882,129	115,353,917	1,061,353	
† 11 Other Countries	120,165	127,939	6,5	133,017	9,766	1,671	3,826	569,932	12,977,872	226	876,392	5,872,688	85,024	
GRAND TOTAL (206)	1,256,784	1,384,732	10,2	1,483,430	164,193	88,871	26,524	27,469,335	267,581,120	2,464,196	204,758,521	121,226,605	1,146,378	

* Percentage of decrease

† Work banned and reports are incomplete

Sweden, Finland, Germany, Switzerland, South Africa and Australia, as well as smaller plants in other parts of the world. They also use outside printing plants in some parts of the world to get their literature printed for distribution.

⁶⁸ Their total production in bound books for Bible study during the twelve months of the 1970 service year amounted to 29,138,291, booklets 13,965,784, *Watchtower* magazines 177,038,027, *Awake!* magazines 171,719,337. What a joy it has been for these Christians to print all this literature and help in its distribution! They feel like the apostle Paul, who said: "I am not ashamed of the good news; it is, in fact, God's power for salvation to everyone having faith." (Rom. 1:16, 17) Those who love righteousness today must turn to God's Word and keep studying it. You cannot shrink back. Paul said: "But my righteous one will live by reason of faith," and, "if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." Now we are not the sort that shrink back to destruction, but the sort that have faith to the preserving alive of the soul." (Heb. 10:38, 39) Paul knew that that kind of faith was going to be needed down through the centuries, and that kind of faith is needed now. This is no time to give up or even slow down. Remember what Habakkuk said: "For the vision is yet for the appointed time, and it keeps panting on to the end, and it will not tell a lie. Even if it should delay, keep in expectation of it; for it will without fail come true. It will not be late." —Hab. 2:3.

⁶⁹ Look back a minute. It was without fail that the prophecy concerning Judah's destruction by Babylon came true, and it was without fail that Babylon itself was captured by the Medes and Persians. Without fail the children of Israel were

69. (a) How are we to be assured that what Jehovah prophesies comes true? (b) But what is required of us?

delivered to their own homeland again. Without fail the one that the Jews rejected and had nailed to the torture stake, the Son of God, was raised from the dead by his Father, Jehovah. Peter was not hesitant in telling the Jews there in Solomon's colonnade at the temple in Jerusalem that they killed the Chief Agent of life, but God raised him up from the dead, of which fact the disciples were witnesses. (Acts 3:15) Without fail the temple of Jerusalem and the city of Jerusalem were destroyed, just as Jesus said: "Truly I say to you, By no means will a stone be left here upon a stone and not be thrown down." (Matt. 24:2) Did not all of these things come true? What Jehovah God said would happen in days gone by did happen. But how do you know unless you have studied God's Word?

⁷⁰ Did not Jesus give the full answer to the disciples when they asked him the question, "When will these things be, and what will be the sign of your presence and of the conclusion of the system of things?" (Matt. 24:3) Have you read and do you now believe that the twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew is having its greater fulfillment and that you are living in the "last days"? Do you believe that Christ Jesus has returned, and is present in his heavenly kingdom, having been seated upon his throne in the new heavens? (Acts 2:34, 35; Rev. 11:17) Do you not see that

70. What self-examination are we now called upon to undertake?

the conclusion of this system of things is very near its close? Do you still pray, and believe, that God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven? Without fail will you continue to 'fight the fine fight of the faith and get a firm hold on the everlasting life for which you were called and offered the fine public declaration in front of many witnesses'? Do you believe that the vision "will not tell a lie"? Do you have the faith that Habakkuk said we should have, namely, even if it should delay, keeping in expectation of it, for it will come true without fail? Recall, too, please, what Peter said: "However, let this one fact not be escaping your notice, . . . Jehovah is not slow respecting his promise, as some people consider slowness, but he is patient with you because he does not desire any to be destroyed but desires all to attain to repentance."—2 Pet. 3:8, 9.

⁷¹ It takes faith to be a Christian, for Christians walk by faith, not by sight. (2 Cor. 5:7) The Christian witnesses of Jehovah, no matter where they are, will continue preaching God's kingdom because they will be fulfilling Jesus' words: "You will be witnesses of me . . . to the most distant part of the earth." At the same time each one has the opportunity to prove that he can "fight the fine fight of the faith, get a firm hold on the everlasting life," and help thousands of other people to do the same thing.—1 Tim. 6:12.

71. What is required if one is to have Jehovah's approval, and what will Christians continue to be and do?

Do You Remember?

Have you read the recent issues of *The Watchtower* carefully? If so, you will remember the following points:

- Who is "the Chief Agent of life"? Jesus Christ.—P. 527.*

* All references are to *The Watchtower* for 1970.

- Who Scripturally is to take the lead in a home?

The husband.—P. 549.

- What does the word "sin" as used in the Bible literally mean?

To "miss the mark," that is, the "mark" of perfect obedience to God.—P. 572.

- What is the yoke to which Jesus referred when he said, "Take my yoke upon you"?—Matt. 11:29.

It is the "yoke" of complete dedication to God as a disciple of Jesus.—P. 593.

- Why could Jesus say in his day that the "kingdom of God has drawn near"?

Because he, God's appointed one to rule in that kingdom, was there.—P. 621.

- When was the doctrine of the Trinity introduced to those professing to be followers of Christ?

In the fourth century, after Jesus' death.—P. 643.

- Why was Eve's original sin not the seduction of Adam?

God had commanded Adam and Eve to have children before they sinned.—P. 645.

- What two time periods are meant by the expression "year of goodwill," at Isaiah 61:2?

From the Messiah's appearance in 29 C.E.

until the siege of Jerusalem in 70 C.E., and from 1914 C.E. until the "great tribulation" begins.—Pp. 659-661.

- What does Jesus' statement, "Salvation originates with the Jews," mean for Christians?

That the channel for passing salvation to non-Jews has been through the Jewish remnant who accepted the Messiah in 33 C.E.—P. 681.

- What in the first century C.E. and what today has fulfilled the prophecy at Matthew 24:15 about the "disgusting thing"?

In the first century it was the "encamped armies" of the Romans surrounding Jerusalem; today it is the United Nations.—Pp. 719, 722.

- When Jesus told his disciples, "You will be witnesses of me," (Acts 1:8) did he mean that they were to cease being witnesses of Jehovah?

No! Their being witnesses of Jesus was to show that Jehovah had not lied but had raised up his Messiah, and so they continued also being witnesses of Jehovah.—Pp. 749, 750.

Accept the Implanting of the Soul-saving Word

*How can the Word of God be said to be soul-saving, as stated at James 1:21?**

That Word of God safeguards us against needless calamity even now, saying: "He that would love life and see good days, let him restrain his tongue from what is bad and his lips from speaking deception, but let him turn away from what is bad and do what is good; let him seek peace and pursue it." (1 Pet. 3: 10, 11) Heeding this advice keeps one from many of the troubles that can unduly shorten one's life.

The Word of God can also be said to be soul-saving as to the future life, for Jehovah God says: "Seek righteousness, seek meekness. Probably you may be concealed in the day of Jehovah's anger." That day of Jehovah's anger is the foretold "great tribulation," including Armageddon, "the war of the great day of God the Almighty." Only those who accept the implanting of the soul-saving Word can hope to be spared at that time.—Zeph. 2:3.

How important is the heart condition in accepting the implanting of the Word?

It is all important, as Jesus showed in his parable of the sower. Where the heart is hard, like the road under one's feet, the enemy

is able at once to steal the seed. Where the heart appreciation does not go very deep, the hot sun of opposition causes the plant to wither and die. Or where in the heart there is too much concern over the material things of life, or the desire to get rich, these choke the truth, the Word, so that it also dies. But where the soul-saving Word is implanted in "a fine and good heart," the result is fruit to God's praise and the saving of the soul of the one possessing such a fine and good heart.—Luke 8:9-15.

How can a Christian family accept the implanting of the soul-saving Word?

One way is by regularly considering the Bible text (and comment on it) for each day in the *Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses*.

More than that, the parents should also see to it that at least one evening a week is set apart for a family Bible study. Throughout the world the Bethel families of the Watch Tower Society set aside Monday evening for this purpose. Parents should also seek to implant the Word in their children by discussing with them, day by day, Bible principles that apply to everyday problems of life. In this way they learn to look to God's Word to guide every facet of their lives.

* For details see *The Watchtower*, January 1, 1970.



Questions from Readers

- What is the meaning of the prophecy: "As for your old men, dreams they will dream. As for your young men, visions they will see"?
—D. A., U.S.A.

This prophecy from Joel 2:28 had a fulfillment in apostolic times beginning with Pentecost of 33 C.E., even as the apostle Peter showed on that occasion. (Acts 2:17) As the prophecy states that the old men will dream dreams and the young men will see visions, it means that both kinds of flesh, old flesh and young flesh, will be used by God as means for divine communications. The dreams of the old men would be inspired ones from God just as the visions of the young men were by divine inspiration. This does not mean that the old men might not also be inspired to see visions from God.

And so the record shows. Peter had a vision from God that prepared him for preaching to the Gentile Cornelius, even as it was about the same time that the Italian centurion Cornelius had a vision from God to send for Peter. (Acts 10:3-17) The disciple Ananias had a vision that told him to go to the persecuting Saul of

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Tarsus and acquaint him with the good news about the Messiah, which he did. After Saul became the apostle Paul he repeatedly had inspired visions. And what inspired visions the apostle John had toward the end of his life! —Acts 9:10; 18:9; 2 Cor. 12:1; Rev. 1:1.

However, we are not to think of this prophecy as being limited to those apostolic times. Even as do many other prophecies, it has a secondary application in our day. This is clear from the reference to these things taking place before the "great and fear-inspiring day of Jehovah."
—Joel 2:31.

Since today we have the complete inspired Scriptures, God is not giving any more inspired visions or dreams. However, Jehovah's people today are seeing the fulfillment of many of the inspired visions and dreams that God's servants had in ancient times, and they are even having a share in their being fulfilled. They are having a share in the fulfillment of the prophecy, "your sons and your daughters will certainly prophesy." (Joel 2:28) Not that these prophesy in the sense of foretelling events under inspiration, but rather in that they are making public proclamation of the inspired dreams and visions long ago recorded. They prophesy in the sense of being God's spokesmen. That this is one of the meanings of 'prophesy' is apparent from the fact that Jehovah God appointed Aaron to be prophet to his brother Moses. Aaron did not foretell things to Moses, but he served as Moses' spokesman or mouthpiece.—Ex. 7:1.

"WATCHTOWER" STUDIES FOR THE WEEKS

January 24: Have You Entered the Great Contest of Faith?, ¶1-24. Page 8. Songs to Be Used: 3, 44.

January 31: Have You Entered the Great Contest of Faith?, ¶25-47. Page 14. Songs to Be Used: 58, 81.

February 7: Have You Entered the Great
Contest of Faith?, ¶48-71. Page 20. Songs
to Be Used: 108, 90.