

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

JANUARY 1991

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FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Meetings for Field Service

DECEMBER 31—JANUARY 6 New Topic for Conversation

1. Review key points of scriptures used.
2. How can current offer be introduced?

JANUARY 7-13

With current offer

1. Which book will you use?
2. What talking point(s) do you plan to use?

JANUARY 14-20

Using the *Reasoning* book (pp. 227-32)

1. What will God's Kingdom accomplish?
2. How will it affect human governments?

JANUARY 21-27

Tracts

1. What themes do they cover?
2. How can they be used in introduction?
3. How would you start a study in one?

JANUARY 28—FEBRUARY 3

Using current news items

1. What will tie in with Topic for Conversation?
2. How can we be bold, yet use tact?

TOPIC FOR CONVERSATION

God's Kingdom—The Hope for Mankind.

Matt. 6:10—We pray for the Kingdom.

Dan. 2:44—What it will do.

¹ The 1991 Yearbook tells of thrilling expansion taking place earth wide. There are new peaks of publishers in one land after another.

² But what is it like in your territory? Do you encounter indifference? Are the people apathetic to the Kingdom message? Are few people at home? Do few respond favorably? If so, you may be encouraged by Paul's counsel at Galatians 6:9: "Let us not give up in doing what is fine, for in due season we shall reap if we do not tire out." Even in difficult territories, sheeplike ones are still being found.

³ What can we do so as not to tire out in the ministry? Changing our approach or our introductions could help. Excellent suggestions are found in the *Reasoning* book. Have you tried them? A very brief but direct approach may capture the attention of more householders. Let people know you are personally interested in their welfare.

PRESENT THE "KINGDOM COME" BOOK

⁴ During January we can show our concern for others by offering the book "Let Your Kingdom Come." It is an excellent tool to help others learn more about the Kingdom they so often mention in prayer, yet know so little about.

⁵ Every chapter of this book has ex-

cellent talking points. You may find chapter 1 and the picture on pages 4 and 5 helpful in your presentation. Who would not want to live in the Paradise conditions depicted there? Also, the box entitled "What God's Kingdom Will Do" on page 25 ties in well with our current Topic for Conversation. Of course, you may find other points fitting for your presentation.

⁶ Surely we can be personally encouraged and strengthened by our participation in the Kingdom preaching work on a weekly basis. In addition, our spirituality can be kept high by consistent study of God's Word and regular participation in congregation meetings.—Heb. 10:23-25.

⁷ All of us need to endure in Jehovah's service and not tire out in these difficult last days. Pray to Jehovah for strength. (Isa. 40:29-31) Ask him to help you endure, and keep a positive mental attitude. Remember, we are doing God's work. He sees what we do in his service, and he does not forget. (Heb. 6:10) So let us not tire out! Rather, let us be "always having plenty to do in the work of the Lord," relying on Jehovah to strengthen us for his "fine work."—1 Cor. 15:58; Gal. 6:9.

Starting Studies Using *Mankind's Search for God*

¹ Jesus said, "In all the nations the good news has to be preached first." (Mark 13:10) This meant that his disciples would come in contact with people of many different languages, cultures, and religious backgrounds. It also meant that his modern disciples, Jehovah's Witnesses, would have the assignment of teaching all kinds of people.

² Our new book *Mankind's Search for God* undoubtedly will help many more honesthearted people to find the true God, Jehovah, and embrace his way of truth. (John 4:21-24) How can we start Bible studies using this publication?

HOW TO START A STUDY

³ The foundation for a Bible study may have been laid during the first visit when you learned the person's religious affiliation. On that initial call, you probably turned the householder's attention to a certain chapter or paragraph. Then, on a later visit, that same point can be used as a springboard to a conversation leading to a study. By using the questions at the bottom of the page, you have a basis for stirring thought and discussion. Of course, we are interested not

in provoking controversy but, rather, in a reasoned consideration of the material. Whether we start at the beginning of the book or in any other chapter, our aim should be eventually to direct the person to chapters 10, 15, and 16. Why is that?

⁴ The search for the true God inevitably has to be through Christ. Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6) Chapter 10 clearly answers the question, "Was Jesus the Way to God?" It explains Jesus' credentials, how we know that he was not a mythical character, how he was foretold in prophecy, why his early disciples believed in him as the way to God, and how we know he had God's approval. (John 6:44, 65) Chapters 15 and 16 deal with "A Return to the True God" and "The True God and Your Future."

DISCERN INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

⁵ After several studies we might deem it wise to move into a more basic Bible publication, such as the book *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth*. Since the book *Mankind's* (Continued on page 7, col. 2)

Meetings to Help Us Make Disciples

WEEK STARTING DECEMBER 31

Song 18

9 min: Local announcements and selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry*. Highlight January offer. Provide names of older publications in stock locally. Consider introductions that might be used with current Topic for Conversation. If designated older books are not available, highlight use of "*Kingdom Come*" book.

18 min: "1991 'Lovers of Freedom' District Convention"—Part 1. Read December 15, 1990, convention assignment letter. Question-and-answer consideration of paragraphs 1-12 of insert by congregation secretary. Read paragraphs 4-6 and 8-11. Read scriptures as time allows.

18 min: "1991 'Lovers of Freedom' District Convention"—Part 2. Presiding overseer or other qualified elder discusses with audience paragraphs 13-16 of insert. Read scriptures and paragraphs that apply locally as time allows. Highlight thrust of letters in box on page 6. Stress need to select accommodations from Recommended Lodging Locations list, and commend those cooperating with the rooming arrangement.

Song 147 and concluding prayer.

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 7

Song 30

10 min: Local announcements. Briefly mention talking points from magazines that may be used in witnessing this week.

15 min: "Do Not Tire Out." Discussion of main points in article. Ask for suggestions from audience when discussing paragraph 3. Have a qualified publisher demonstrate offer, using suggestion in paragraph 5. Encourage congregation to keep busy in field ministry and not tire out or become discouraged by apathy or opposition encountered.

20 min: How Can We Keep Strong? Series of interviews to highlight need to keep strong and not tire out. (1) Interview two or three who have been serving for many years and are good examples. What pressures to stop preaching have they experienced and overcome? What helped them to keep going and not tire out? (Could mention prayer, regular meeting attendance, personal study, encouragement from others, and so forth.) What did they do to guard against slowing down or quitting? (Could mention importance of regular association at meetings, keeping up per-

sonal study, appreciation of relationship with Jehovah, and so forth.) How have they retained spiritual balance? (Could mention help of elders or others, putting spiritual interests first in life, prayer to Jehovah, and so forth.) (2) Interview some children who are regular publishers and good examples. What has helped them to be regular in service? How have parents helped them? Do other publishers encourage and help them in field service? What are their goals in Jehovah's service? Conclude with brief review of points made in interviews. Song 10 and concluding prayer.

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 14

Song 121

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Commend congregation for support of worldwide work and the Society Kingdom Hall Fund. Call attention to information in "Be Prepared for Watchtower Subscription Campaign," and encourage publishers to request needed extra magazines. Publishers may wish to bring their *Watch Tower Publications Index* 1986-1989 to the Service Meeting next week.

20 min: Medical Document and Identity Card. Secretary has cards distributed and considers paragraphs 1, 2, 4-7, 9, and 10 of the Society's letter of January 1, 1990, on this matter. Reason with audience on why instructions should be followed carefully in order to make cards serve most effectively for our protection. Elders can follow through after the meeting as they did last year. Do not delay filling out the cards and having them properly signed.

15 min: "Starting Studies Using *Man-kind's Search for God*." Questions and answers. When discussing paragraph 6, have qualified publishers in audience prepared to offer specific suggestions and comments on starting a study in either chapter 11 or chapter 13.

Song 108 and concluding prayer.

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 21

Song 111

10 min: Local announcements. Theocratic News. Include arrangements for weekend field service. Offer suggestions as to which articles in the current magazines may particularly appeal to people in the local territory. Everyone should bring a copy of tract *Life in a Peaceful New World* for Service Meeting next week.

15 min: "Fulfilling Our Kingdom Ministry With Help From the *Index*." Talk by elder with audience participation. Demonstrate how an elder and a ministerial servant can use the *Index* in preparing for a shepherding call. Discuss how to teach the publishers to use the *Index* to enrich weekly Bible reading.

10 min: Territory Seldom Worked. Review January 1, 1991, letter. Encourage publishers to apply early for an assignment. If there are publishers who wish to assist in territory of nearby congregations, the circuit overseer should be contacted through the Congregation Service Committee.

10 min: Duties of the Literature Servant. Service overseer interviews literature servant, reviewing responsibilities involved. It would be good to highlight local needs that would help improve literature distribution before and after meetings.

Song 203 and concluding prayer.

WEEK STARTING JANUARY 28

Song 192

5 min: Local announcements.

15 min: "Presenting the Good News—With Tracts and Handbills." Question-and-answer discussion. Have scriptures read. After discussing paragraph 5, have pioneer or other capable publisher demonstrate starting study on return visit using tract *Life in a Peaceful New World*. Encourage publishers to use this approach on return visits, especially when it has been difficult to find householders at home after the initial call. Invite prepared publishers to comment on success they have had using this approach.

10 min: "New Video!—How to Use It." Talk outlining key points in article. Refer to letter of October 15, 1990, announcing release of this new provision for acquainting people with Jehovah's organization.

15 min: Can You Auxiliary Pioneer This Spring? Warm discussion by brother with experience as regular or auxiliary pioneer. Interview several who auxiliary pioneered previously. What adjustments did they make to meet their goal? Highlight practical plans they made. With Memorial season nearing, encourage interested publishers to discuss their plans with an elder. By being positive now, many will enjoy this service. For some this may be a stepping-stone to regular pioneer service. (km 2/90 p. 3) Applications may be obtained from presiding overseer or secretary.

Song 151 and concluding prayer.

1991 "Lovers of Freedom" District Convention

¹ During the summer of 1990, Jehovah's blessing was displayed outstandingly at the 142 "Pure Language" District Conventions held across the United States. There was a peak attendance of 1,373,825, and 17,673 were baptized. And now, just think, already it is time to start making arrangements for attending the three-day 1991 "Lovers of Freedom" District Convention. Will you and your family be there?

² The program being prepared for the convention will be encouraging and motivating. Its Bible-based counsel and instruction is directed to all who truly value the freedom enjoyed by God's people now and who look forward to enjoyment of perfect freedom in Jehovah's promised new world. (Rom. 8:20, 21) Be sure to make your convention arrangements carefully and prayerfully so that you can be there to enjoy all three days of the delightful and spiritually satisfying program from the opening song to the closing prayer. As you make your plans, lovingly include others who may need assistance. Especially show concern for newly interested ones, so they also can attend every session. (Gal. 6:10) The program will start at 10:20 a.m. on Friday, and the final session will end at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. The following information is provided to assist you in your preliminary preparations.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR OBTAINING ROOMS

³ Following the Service Meeting for the week of December 31, congregations should post on the information board the Recommended Lodging Locations list for the district convention to which the congregation is assigned. This list gives all the motels presently cooperating with the Society's rooming arrangement. By cooperating with these arrangements, the congregations will help the convention organization in its efforts to provide sufficient rooming accommodations for everyone.

⁴ **WHAT YOU SHOULD DO:** As soon as—but NOT before—your congregation posts the Recommended Lodging Locations list containing the addresses, phone numbers, and agreed-upon

rates of the motels, you are free to phone the motel of your choice and make reservations. Identifying yourself as one of Jehovah's Witnesses and as a delegate attending the Watchtower convention will qualify you for the rates listed, which in most cases have been greatly reduced.

⁵ One night's DEPOSIT WILL BE REQUIRED at all locations in order to hold the room. Your deposit should be sent directly to the motel AS SOON AS you make your reservations. If your deposit is not received by the motel within three weeks, your reservations can be canceled. MOTELS ARE NOT OBLIGATED TO HOLD THE ROOMS OR EXTEND THE SPECIAL RATES WITHOUT A DEPOSIT. If you must cancel your reservation, you should immediately notify the motel. This makes the room available for other delegates.

⁶ If the motel you call first is filled, call your next selection from the list and so on. Often, everyone calls the motels closest to the convention, so you may find it beneficial to try some motels farther away. The convention Rooming Department will continue to provide the congregations with revised lists as long as necessary, deleting motels that have been filled and including additional motels until everyone has a room. Thus, if all the motels on the list are filled, please wait patiently for the next list, and you will be able to obtain a room.

⁷ **DORMITORIES:** A few conventions use school dormitories in order to accommodate all of those attending. Usually, congregations will receive information on these a month or so after the first motel listing. Those needing accommodations of this type should follow the instructions on the list that is sent to the congregations by the convention.

⁸ **SPECIAL NEEDS:** This provision is only for publishers, including their children, who are all in good standing in the congregation. Arrangements to care for persons with special needs should be made by the congregation where they attend. Elders and others who are aware of the individual circumstances can lovingly extend

help. This often requires that publishers consider the needs of those in full-time service, the elderly, the infirm, the deaf, and perhaps others. Publishers may extend help by taking such ones with them or caring for their needs in other ways.—Jas. 2:15-17; 1 John 3:17, 18.

⁹ Of course, the Rooming Department will endeavor to provide suitable rooming accommodations for publishers with special needs if they cannot be assisted by those in the congregation. These publishers may discuss their situation with the congregation secretary, asking him for a Special Needs Room Request form at that time. The secretary should first speak with the Congregation Service Committee to see if it is possible for the congregation to assist these persons to care for their own rooming accommodations. If the congregation cannot render the needed assistance, the secretary may give such persons a copy of the Special Needs Room Request form. Those with special needs are the only ones that should fill out this form. It is to be returned to the secretary and checked for completeness, accuracy, and verification of the circumstances that qualify the person or persons for special needs consideration. The circumstances are to be explained in detail in the space provided on the form. All of this should be done well ahead of the convention. The secretary will then forward the form to the Rooming Department. The individual making the request will be notified directly about the accommodations.

¹⁰ Those with special needs should NOT go to the convention and request a room when they arrive because the Rooming Department must have the verification of the Congregation Service Committee.

¹¹ Private-home accommodations are usually set aside for those who would experience real hardship if such accommodations were not available. They are not intended for those who can afford motel rooms but who want free or inexpensive rooms just to save money. Similarly, it is not proper for delegates to presume upon the hospitality of our brothers by expecting to be accommodated extra days in order to visit vacation spots or do other things before or after the convention. These rooms are for the

convention period only. Those receiving such accommodations should see that they and their children act respectfully toward the home of their host and do not damage anything or rummage through the possessions or enter private areas of the home. If householders experience any difficulties along this line, these should immediately be brought to the attention of the Rooming Department at the convention, and the brothers there will be happy to help.

¹² **DELEGATES ATTENDING FROM OUTSIDE THE ASSIGNED AREA:** In nearly every case, the location assigned for you to attend is the one nearest your congregation. Having adequate seating, literature, food, rooming accommodations, and so forth, is based on the premise that the majority of the publishers will attend the convention to which their congregation is assigned. However, if for some reason you will be attending a convention other than the one assigned and need accommodations, the congregation secretary can give you the address of the convention headquarters where you desire to attend. These addresses are listed on the back of the Special Needs Room Request form. Then you can write to that convention headquarters and request a copy of the motel listing for that location, sending along a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Upon receipt of this list, use it to make your reservation.

¹³ **YOUR COOPERATION NEEDED:** The success of this rooming arrangement depends on the cooperation of everyone involved. (Compare Genesis 6:22.) Thus, we are asking everyone to cooperate fully with the Society's rooming arrangement and use ONLY the motels on the list so that major difficulties we are experiencing in our negotiations with the motels can be prevented. Most of the publishers are taking to heart the clear direction that has been given for the past few years in the January *Our Kingdom Ministry* convention inserts, and many good results are being experienced. However, it is still necessary to request that everyone PLEASE OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES FOR OBTAINING MOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

a) Make reservations AFTER—not before—the congregation posts the Recommend-

ed Lodging Locations list from the convention Rooming Department.

b) Do not accept a higher price than what is quoted for a motel on the list.

c) Please do not make reservations at a motel you do not intend to use or at more than one motel with the idea of first checking each one and then selecting the best one, canceling the others. (Matt. 5:37) This is unkind, and it prevents the motels from getting business they could have had. It also deprives other publishers of the use of those rooms, which often are vitally needed.

d) Do not reserve rooms for yourself or others without giving names and sending the deposits for each room immediately.

e) Do not put more people in the room than the law and the management allow, which is normally no more than four or five persons, including children. Remember, you are paying a rate based upon the number of persons you AGREED would be in the room.

f) Do not check in before 1:00 p.m. or whatever is the motel policy. You may check in after the program that day, since your deposit guarantees your room.

g) Do not cook or heat food in the room unless it has a kitchenette for that purpose, and be careful not to soil anything in the room with food.

h) Children should not be allowed in hallways, elevators, or swimming pools without a parent or adult guardian with them. Swimming pools should not be used after the official closing time.

¹⁴ Violations in these areas make it difficult to negotiate good rates. They also bring reproach on Jehovah's name and organization. (Ps. 119:168) Therefore, the Society will be asking the Rooming Department to check with the motels during the convention to determine if any are experiencing such problems and who is involved. Your compliance in these matters is earnestly sought so that the Society may continue assisting delegates to obtain reasonably priced accommodations. On the other hand, IF YOU EXPERIENCE A PROBLEM WITH A MOTEL, PLEASE BRING IT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ROOMING DEPARTMENT OVERSEER

DURING THE CONVENTION so that he can assist you in resolving the matter that day.

¹⁵ The convention organization is working hard to save our brothers as much expense as possible, so it is in the best interests of all for everyone to cooperate fully with the Society's rooming arrangement so that this provision can continue. The listing is comprehensive enough to give a choice of good-quality accommodations and yet give preference to the motels that cooperate. With this arrangement, our aim is to help delegates to be accommodated as comfortably and economically as possible so that they will be refreshed and fully able to enjoy the fine spiritual program at the convention.

SIGN-LANGUAGE SESSIONS

¹⁶ As you will note in *The Watchtower* of February 15, 1991, sign-language interpreting will be provided AT ONLY 16 specific convention cities. NO PROVISION for sign language will be made at any other conventions. For a number of years now, this arrangement has proved to be a real blessing for those with this special need by providing good-quality interpreting and larger groups for enjoyable, up-building fellowship. Those who are signers should let the deaf in their congregations know of the arrangements and help them to attend where the sign-language provision is made by the Society.

NOTE TO THE BODY OF ELDERS: Please read the Society's December 15, 1990, convention assignment letter and the first and last paragraphs of the Recommended Lodging Locations list for your congregation during the Service Meeting for the week of December 31. After that meeting, post the letter and the list on the information board. NO ONE, INCLUDING THE ELDERS, SHOULD MAKE ANY MOTEL RESERVATIONS BEFORE THIS SERVICE MEETING. In this way all the congregations will receive the information the same week. At the next congregation meeting, please announce again the dates and convention to which the congregation is assigned. The congregation secretary should handle convention-related correspondence and announcements on future Service Meetings.

Each year the Society receives many letters from motel managers and employees as well as from brothers and sisters. Most of the letters are positive, but some contain well-founded criticism. Here are some excerpts from letters received, showing why it is important to follow carefully the instructions in *Our Kingdom Ministry* regarding the Society's convention rooming arrangement:

From a Witness family: "We appreciate so very much the rooming arrangements for us Witnesses to go to the conventions. Because many of us are putting Kingdom interests first, we have little money to spend, and so the fact that these motels are willing to cooperate with you is much appreciated by our family. We used to just send our check for our deposit, but now we send a letter along telling the motel how very much we appreciate their making special concessions for us to have rooms for a cut rate. We also make it clear that we will do our best to cooperate with their motel regulations, keep our rooms clean, take care of the fixtures, etc., while there and be as quiet and orderly as possible. We want them to know we will be good citizens and not a risk group while we are there. This way they too will come to know what kind of people we are, and this can go a long way in contributing to finding rooms in the future if needed."

From a disabled sister: "Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! I want you to know I appreciate so much your help and consideration in helping us to be able to go away to motels for the assemblies each year. The details you cover . . . we would never be able to do ourselves . . . such as negotiating the prices, which are always much lower than the actual amount, and checking the establishments so that we are not afraid to stay. The accommodations are always very good. Please take note that those who really care and benefit from it like myself, 'the needy,' can't thank you enough and would like to encourage you to continue, please! When I read your message to us that appeared in *Our Kingdom Ministry* about lack of appreciation, I was shocked and deeply saddened to learn of the conduct and disrespect some of us have shown for this loving provision. Please do not let the actions of some spoil it for those who do appreciate it and probably would not be able to attend the conventions and benefit from the fine spiritual food that is so lovingly well prepared and seasoned. Please continue this feature, and may Jehovah continue to bless this arrangement."

From a motel employee: "First you rent a room for two people, then you move from four to six people in. This is cheating the motel, which is the same thing as stealing. . . . You leave the rooms looking worse than a pigpen. You don't care how much extra work you put on a person. . . . If you

want to be accepted by people, then you had better start having some consideration for other people. . . . I will offer some advice: (1) When you rent a room for two, move only two in. (2) If you are going to have more trash than the can will hold, then either bring a trash bag with you or ask the maid for one. Don't dump wet food in the can, and by all means put dirty diapers in a plastic bag. (3) Don't leave your towels lying all over the room . . . (4) Don't leave things lying on the bed; the maid has to take all the things off before she can make it up. If you will follow these rules, it will . . . make people look forward to your coming instead of dreading it."

From a sister: "I'm writing this note to thank you for the effort you put forth in arranging for rooms that are clean and at a good price so that persons like me and my daughter can attend our convention without a lot of needless worrying. We are not afraid to stay at the motels that appear on the list that we receive at the Kingdom Hall because we know that loving brothers have done all that they can to see that we enjoy the conventions."

From a brother: "I would like to express my family's appreciation for your efforts in obtaining reasonable motel arrangements for our district conventions. . . . I would like to relate to you an experience proving the effectiveness of your bargaining efforts. My older brother, who is not one of Jehovah's Witnesses, is the general manager of [a motel]. In 1987 . . . we were anxious to see if he had cooperated with the brothers in the rooming department. We were excited to see that he had and that a rate of \$45 a night was agreed upon. (The normal rate is much higher.) I asked him if he felt good about the arrangements, and he said he did. The reason was that the brothers are well-mannered and would not overburden his staff because of their showing respect for their rooming accommodations. However, the next year [his motel] was not on the list. Needless to say, I called to find out why. He said that the brothers had again asked for \$45 a night but he wanted \$55 a night, which on the surface does not seem like a big deal, but for 100 rooms it meant \$1,000 a night difference. Besides, [he said], some brothers had taken rooms the year before at motels that were not on the list. He said, in fact, he had already made reservations with some Witnesses for the 1988 convention. This part bothered my wife and me. My brother and I did not discuss this again until this year, 1989. . . . We were delighted to see once again that [his motel] was on the list at \$45 a night. . . . I immediately called [him] to find out why he had a change of heart. His reason: 'Last year every motel was filled except mine.' Thanks again for your efforts and . . . the obedience of all our Christian brothers who follow the lead of Jehovah's visible organization."

Announcements

● Literature offer for January and February: Any 192-page book published prior to 1980 that the congregation has in stock. If the congregation has no stock of such books to be offered, the book "Let Your Kingdom Come" should be used. The "Kingdom Come" book may be requested from Brooklyn. **March:** *Revelation Climax* book. **April and May:** *Watchtower* subscription.

● Starting in February, and no later than March 3, the new public talk for circuit overseers will be "Godly Wisdom in a Scientific World."

● The Society is now accepting requests for reprinted *Watchtower* bound volumes in SPANISH for the years 1970 through 1974. If any are interested in obtaining the reprinted Spanish *Watchtower* bound volumes, such should be requested through the congregation on the next Literature Request Form. Since the volumes are being reprinted one time only, we urge all to consider their needs carefully. Please bear in mind that these bound volumes are special request items.

● During the visit of the circuit overseer, only one Theocratic Ministry School will be conducted. Everyone should remain in the main auditorium for the entire program that evening.

● During the five-week period from February 11 through the week of March 11, 1991, the brochure *How Can Blood Save Your Life?* will be considered in the Congregation Book Study. Prepared questions for the brochure will appear as an insert in the February 1991 *Our Kingdom Ministry*. Beginning with the week of March 18, 1991, the book *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!* will be considered in the Congregation Book Study.

● The special public talk for the 1991 Memorial season will be given worldwide on Sunday, April 7. The subject of the talk will be "The Messiah's Presence and His Rule." An outline will be provided. Those congregations having the visit of the circuit overseer, a circuit assembly, or a special assembly day that weekend will have the special talk the following week. No congregation should have the special talk before April 7.

● On some 1991 calendars, the Bible reading schedule is different from what appears in the *Theocratic Ministry School Schedule for 1991*. In this case, congregations should follow the Bible reading in the *Theocratic Ministry School Schedule for 1991* rather than that on the calendar.

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

December 31:	Page 134, par. 1, to page 144, par. 23
January 7:	Page 144, par. 24, to page 153, par. 11
January 14:	Page 153, par. 12, to page 161, par. 30
January 21:	Page 162, par. 1, to page 170, par. 22
January 28:	Page 170, par. 23, to page 180, par. 13

Fulfilling Our Kingdom Ministry With Help From the Index

¹ As dedicated Christians, we earnestly endeavor to fulfill our ministry. To help us do this, Jehovah has provided a wealth of guidance and encouragement in an extensive library of valuable publications. Can we make better use of them? A primary aid for doing so is the *Watchtower Publications Index*, published continuously in various languages since 1961.

² How can the *Index* help you fulfill your ministry? It does so by pointing the way to the excellent counsel and explanations already provided. The *Index* has been prepared with the worldwide brotherhood in mind. From children to grandparents, new Bible students to elders, all can find references they need for any beneficial purpose.

HOW TO FIND WHAT YOU NEED

³ If your interest is in the meaning of a particular verse or series of verses, you will find it best to turn first to the scripture index in the back. Has someone cited John 10:30 in an attempt to prove the Trinity doctrine? The scripture index will direct you to material that clarifies why Jesus stated those words. The scripture index will enrich our personal Bible reading as we seek expla-

nation of verses that seem puzzling or vague.

⁴ The subject index provides different paths to the same useful information. For example, you may need information on what to do if an unbelieving mate objects to your taking your children to meetings. To find the answer, you may turn to the headings "Husbands," "Wives," "Children," "Opposition," or "Meetings." Regarding any subject, if what you are seeking is not found under the first heading you turn to, try another. Ask yourself: 'Who is involved? Is a specific place important? A particular quality or skill? A dominant emotion? A goal?' If you find a main heading that seems right, first scan the cross-references directly beneath it. These often save time by identifying another heading that is more to the point.

⁵ Skill in using the *Index* can contribute much to success in fulfilling our sacred responsibilities. Our families, our Bible students, and our congregations will be benefited as we become more skillful in using this tool. Coming issues of *Our Kingdom Ministry* will explore specific areas where the *Watchtower Publications Index* can be an invaluable aid in fulfilling our Kingdom ministry.

Starting Studies

(Cont'd)

Search for God is designed initially to draw people of many diverse backgrounds to the true God, not every chapter will appeal to every person. We need to know how to adapt our presentation and study arrangement to the individual needs of each one.—1 Cor. 9:19-22.

⁶ For example, we might have placed the book with a person who professes to be Christian. Now the question for the return visit could be, "Why are there so many religions that claim to be Christian?" Thus, chapter 11 on the apostasy and chapter 13 on the Reformation could be the basis for starting a study. As the person discovers how Christendom took shape, we will help him to reason on the Bible's teachings as opposed to Christendom's apostate doctrines. The truth, we hope, will free that person's mind so that he or she can develop a relationship with Jehovah God. (John 8:31, 32) Then the study can be continued in chapters 15 and 16 or in the *Live Forever* book.

REACHING PEOPLE OF NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS

⁷ In studying with people of other faiths, Christian love and tact should

always be demonstrated. Paul emphasized that when he wrote: "Let your utterance be always with graciousness, seasoned with salt, so as to know how you ought to give an answer to each one." (Col. 4:6) For Hindus we might try to start the study on page 372 under the subheading "A Promised New World." Then continue in chapter 5 on Hinduism. The key to success is knowing the needs of the individual.—Compare Acts 17:22, 23.

⁸ Tact is especially needed when dealing with Muslims. They will no doubt be attracted to chapter 12 on Islam. As that subject is developed, Bible texts for comparison and contrast are introduced in the questions, principally from paragraph 23 onward. We are appealing to reason as the Bible invites: "Come, now, you people, and let us set matters straight between us," says Jehovah.—Isa. 1:18; 1 Pet. 3:15.

⁹ Try to help people of different religions to search for the true God. Remember that while we may plant and water, in the final analysis, it is God 'who can keep making the seed of truth grow' when the soil is right.—1 Cor. 3:6, 7; Matt. 13:18-23.

With Tracts and Handbills

¹ Are you using tracts and handbills in your ministry? Many are. In Brooklyn alone, over 122 million *Peaceful New World* tracts have been printed, as well as about 250 million copies of three other tracts, *Why You Can Trust the Bible*, *What Do Jehovah's Witnesses Believe?* and *What Hope for Dead Loved Ones?* Over 12 million handbills are also mailed to congregations in the United States each year.

² We should never underestimate the power of God's Word as explained in these brief messages. (Heb. 4:12; compare Zechariah 4:10; James 3:4, 5.) A Witness from Arizona wrote: "I read many tracts from the Watch Tower Society, and I eventually learned the truth." He explained: "In this hurry-up world, people often do not want to take much time to read, but the tracts are just long enough to have an important message but not so long as to turn people away before they even look at it."

ON INITIAL CONTACT

³ Some publishers find that giving a tract or handbill is an effective way to begin conversations. By offering one, a householder who is hesitant to open the door may be induced to do so. Showing the meeting schedule outlined on the handbill can open the way to a discussion of our work and purpose.

⁴ If a householder is obviously busy or distressed, a tract may be just what

is needed. One woman was so consoled by the tract on the hope for the dead that she wrote the Society for more information. When nobody is at home, a tract may be left for the householder where it cannot be seen by passersby.

ON RETURN VISITS

⁵ Returning where a measure of interest was shown previously, one might say: "Hello, [give name]. I really am glad to find you at home. When we first met, I was impressed by your taking time to talk about the Bible. I have some additional information that I think might interest you. It's found in this tract, *Life in a Peaceful New World*. If you recall, previously we talked about the Bible's promise of true and lasting peace for mankind. However, since many think only of heaven when they read these promises, notice that Psalm 37:29 indicates these blessings will take place here on earth. [Read scripture, showing householder where it is in the tract.] Doesn't that sound interesting? [Discuss several paragraphs.] There are more encouraging scriptures in this tract, and you will find them equally enjoyable. The next time I come, perhaps we can read some of them together just as we have today."

⁶ Truly, our tracts and handbills are gifts from Jehovah. May we skillfully use these valuable aids as we carry out an effective ministry to his praise and our eternal blessing.—Prov. 22:29.

New Video! How to Use It

¹ On Monday evening, October 8, the United States and Canada Bethel families saw it, and they were excited by the prospects for its use. A Bethel couple called it "one of the most encouraging and enjoyable things we have ever seen." After viewing this new 55-minute video entitled *Jehovah's Witnesses—The Organization Behind the Name*, we feel that you too will be elated by the informative, beautiful presentation.

² The video shows the organization of Jehovah's devoted people fulfilling Jesus' command to preach the good news of the Kingdom in all the earth. (Matt. 24:14) While activities at Brooklyn Bethel and Watchtower Farms are highlighted, a fine scope of the worldwide work of Jehovah's Witnesses is presented. Shortly, those who requested the video through the congregation will be receiving their personal copy. You will note that this is copyrighted material and is not to be reproduced.

³ After viewing the program, you

will undoubtedly begin thinking of others you will want to share it with. But whom in particular? It is especially designed to show on home Bible studies where good progress is being made. We recommend that you view it with the student, since it will provide a basis for future discussions with him. If desired, this video can be lent to the student to show to others, or he may obtain a personal copy.

⁴ Do you have unbelieving relatives? Why not arrange for them to see it? This may prove to be just what is needed to stimulate a discussion about our organization and beliefs. The program should particularly benefit young ones. As a result of seeing so many other youths devoting themselves to advancing Kingdom interests, they may be encouraged to pursue the full-time ministry also.

⁵ We are confident that this new video will enhance the appreciation of many more people for Jehovah's organization and what it is accomplishing worldwide.

◆ Belize passed the 900 mark in total publishers during August, with 902 reporting. This is an 11-percent increase over last year's average.

◆ Ecuador completed their series of "Pure Language" District Conventions with a total attendance of 40,799. Their peak of 18,069 publishers during August was a 25-percent increase over last year's average.

◆ The district conventions in Haiti were attended by 13,236, and 396 were baptized. Their publisher peak for the year was 6,427.

◆ New Caledonia reached a new peak of 1,165 publishers in August, a 15-percent increase.

◆ Vanuatu had an 83-percent increase in August with a new peak of 189 publishers. Congregation publishers averaged two Bible studies each.

Be Prepared for Watchtower Subscription Campaign

In anticipation of an outstanding *Watchtower* subscription campaign during April and May, the Society is preparing special-interest issues of both *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Feature articles will address a variety of subjects prominently on the minds of people everywhere.

The Watchtower will discuss the following subjects: "Is It Later Than You Think?" (April 1), "When Will Peace Really Come?" (April 15), "Coping With Crime in a Chaotic World" (May 1), and "Put God First in Your Family Life!" (May 15). *Awake!* articles will deal with these subjects: "When Man and Beast Live in Peace" (April 8), "Help for the Children of Divorce" (April 22), "Lottery Fever—Who Wins? Who Loses?" (May 8), and "Television—The Box That Changed the World" (May 22).

All publishers, especially the pioneers, should consider their individual needs for increased activity in offering subscriptions and distributing individual magazines. Be sure to request increased quantities of magazines in sufficient time to have an adequate supply from the very beginning of the *Watchtower* campaign.

OCTOBER SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bl.St.
Sp'l Pios.	239	127.0	82.9	54.9	5.7
Pios.	66,252	85.4	41.1	27.3	2.6
Aux. Pios.	38,890	59.7	30.0	16.1	1.3
PUBL.	727,686	9.9	6.6	3.8	0.5
TOTAL	833,067				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 3,075

A new peak of 66,252 regular pioneers was reached in October. This was 622 more regular pioneers than we had in October of 1989. These zealous servants are making a fine contribution to the Kingdom-preaching work.