

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

November 2000

For United States of America

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Keep on Preaching!

¹ It is God's will that "all sorts of men should be saved and come to an accurate knowledge of truth." (1 Tim. 2:4) For this reason, he has given us the assignment to preach the good news. (Matt. 24:14) If we appreciate why we should keep on preaching, any discouragement or potential distraction that comes our way will not deter us.

² **Why Persist?** There are many distractions in the world that cause people to forget or to take lightly what we tell them. So we must keep reminding them of God's message of salvation. (Matt. 24:38, 39) Additionally, circumstances in the lives of people are always changing. Even world conditions can change drastically overnight.

Scene of World Changing
(1 Cor. 7:31) Tomorrow, next week, or next month, the people to whom we preach may face new problems or concerns that cause them to give serious consideration to the good news that we bring them. Are you not thankful that the Witness who brought you the truth was persistent?

³ **To Imitate God's Mercy:** Jehovah has patiently allowed time to pass before executing judgment on the wicked. Through us he has continued to appeal to righthearted ones to turn to him and get saved. (2 Pet. 3:9) We would be blood-guilty if we did not keep God's merciful message before the people and warn them about the coming execution of God's

judgment on all who do not turn away from their bad ways. (Ezek. 33:1-11) Even though our preaching is not always well received, we must never slack off from making every effort to help sincere ones appreciate God's great mercy.—Acts 20:26, 27; Rom. 12:11. *be aglow*

⁴ **To Demonstrate Our Love:** It is Jehovah God, through Jesus Christ, who commanded that the good news be preached in all the earth. (Matt. 28:19, 20) Even when people refuse to listen, we have an opportunity to show our love and devotion to God by persisting in doing what is right.—1 John 5:3. *Follow me*

⁵ May we be determined to keep on preaching! Let us do so zealously while it is yet Jehovah's "day of salvation."—2 Cor. 6:2.

"A Word Spoken at the Right Time"

¹ Is sharing the message of life with others a challenge for you? Do you feel that you must say something profound to impress your listeners? When Jesus sent forth his disciples, he told them: "As you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of the heavens has drawn near.'" (Matt. 10:7) The message was uncomplicated and easy to share. It is no different today.

² Often just a few words are needed to start a conversation. When Philip met the Ethiopian eunuch, he asked him: "Do you actually know what you are reading?" (Acts 8:30) What a rewarding discussion resulted from "a word spoken at the right time!"—Prov. 25:11.

³ You can use a similar approach in your ministry. How? By being observant and choosing words that are appropriate to the circumstances. Ask a question, and listen to the response.

⁴ **Some Basic Questions:** To initiate a conversation, you might try any of these questions:

■ "Do you use the Lord's Prayer (or, Our Father) in your worship?" (Matt. 6:9, 10) Recite a portion, and then state: "Some people ask, 'What is God's name that Jesus said is to be sanctified (or, hallowed)?' Others ask, 'What is the Kingdom for which Jesus said we should pray?' Have you found satisfying answers to these questions?"

■ "Have you ever wondered: 'What is the meaning of life?'" Show that it relates to a knowledge of God.—Eccl. 12:13; John 17:3.

■ "Do you think that death will ever be done away with?" Use Isaiah 25:8 and Revelation 21:4 to give a trustworthy answer.

■ "Is there a simple solution to the turmoil in the world?" Show that God teaches "love your neighbor."—Matt. 22:39.

■ "Will a cosmic disaster destroy our earth someday?" Share the Bible promise that the earth will remain forever.—Ps. 104:5.

⁵ Present the good news in a simple, direct manner and with a kind approach. Jehovah will bless your efforts to share even "a word" of the truth with others.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting November 13

Song 4

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry*. Outline special field service arrangements for November 23.

13 min: Question Box. Talk by an elder.

22 min: "Cultivating Interest Stimulated by *Kingdom News* No. 36." Question-and-answer discussion of paragraphs 1-5. Outline local arrangements for covering any territory not yet worked. Review the presentations in paragraphs 7 and 8 for making return visits, and have each one demonstrated. Emphasize the importance of following up all interest and endeavoring to start Bible studies. Conclude by discussing paragraph 9 and the cited scriptures.

Song 63 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 20

Song 111

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

15 min: Experiences Distributing *Kingdom News* No. 36. Report success in covering the territory. Did any in the congregation share in service for the first time? Relate favorable comments made by householders. Were some publishers able to start Bible studies? If so, have them explain or reenact how they did it. Remind all to cultivate the interest found.

20 min: "Keep On Preaching!" Talk and interview. Some have been associated with Jehovah's organization and have persisted in the preaching work all their lives. With a positive attitude, they have found joy in doing so. (See *Knowledge* book, page 179, paragraph 20, and the May 1, 1992, *Watchtower*, pages 21-2, paragraphs 14-15.) Invite a publisher who has been active for many years to relate the reasons why he has persisted in the preaching work.

Song 141 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 27

Song 153

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for November. The literature offer for December is the *Knowledge* book with the *New World Translation*. Explain how Jehovah's Witnesses have played a major role in producing the Bible in many languages.—See the October 15, 1997, *Watchtower*, pages 11-12.

20 min: Make Good Use of the *Reasoning* Book. Question-and-answer discussion of pages 7-8. Show how this book is designed to help us prepare for a more effective share in the ministry. Explain how the book can be used when doing telephone witnessing. Demonstrate how to find helpful information to answer a question. Urge all to become familiar with this book, keep it in their witnessing case, and make regular use of it.

15 min: How Can I Control My TV Viewing Habits? An elder talks to a young brother who spends several hours a day watching TV. At first, the brother insists that there is no harm in it. He says that it is simply a form of relaxation and that he is not adversely affected. Elder reviews main points in chapter 36 of the *Young People Ask* book. He explains that excessive TV viewing consumes valuable time that might otherwise be spent doing personal study, going in the ministry, or helping with congregation needs. The young brother expresses appreciation for the counsel and says that for his spiritual benefit, he will change his TV-viewing habits.

Song 175 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 4

Song 189

10 min: Local announcements. "What Do You Say to an Answering Machine?"

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "A Word Spoken at the Right Time." Audience discussion and demonstrations. Many feel inadequate when trying to start con-

versations, wrongly assuming that they need some special skill to get results. Explain how all of us, including new and younger publishers, can initiate discussions with reasonable effort. Review the suggested presentations, highlighting their simplicity, and have two or three publishers demonstrate them. Refer to the March 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry*, page 8, for additional presentations that can be used. Urge all to be positive so that they will find more joy in their ministry. Song 218 and concluding prayer.

What Do You Say to an Answering Machine?

The telephone is an effective means of witnessing to people who cannot be found at home or who live in territories that are inaccessible. However, more and more people do not answer the phone—an answering machine does it for them. When this happens, what can you do? Do not hang up. Instead, have a well-prepared response written out that you can read over the phone. Practice doing so in a pleasant, conversational voice. What can you say?

You could extend a warm invitation to the householder to attend the next Public Meeting at the Kingdom Hall. You might say: "I am sorry that I did not find you at home. If you would like to hear a Bible-based discussion of [title of public talk], please come to the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses. The public is invited. No collections are ever taken." Then state clearly the day and time of the meeting, and give the street address or describe the location of the Kingdom Hall.

Be alert to any new ones who may attend the meetings, introduce yourself to them, and make them feel welcome. Do not forget to offer a free home Bible study!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **November**: Distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 36 will continue. Congregations that complete their territory by reaching householders in each dwelling with a copy of *Kingdom News* No. 36 may offer the *Require* brochure or the *Knowledge* book. If people already have these, either the *Live Forever* book or the *Creation* book may be used.

■ **December**: *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* with the *New World Translation*. **January**: Any 192-page book published in or prior to 1986 that the congregation may have in stock. Congregations that have on hand *Mankind's Search for God* may also offer it. **February**: *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?*, *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*, or any older 192-page book that the congregation has in stock.

■ After the *Kingdom News* campaign is completed, congregations that still have a supply of *Kingdom News* No. 36 may encourage publishers to offer these in the same manner that they of-

fer tracts—both from door to door and elsewhere. If advisable, publishers may leave one at each not-at-home, making sure that it cannot be seen by passersby. Efforts should be made to distribute all remaining copies of this important message.

■ The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on December 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. When this has been done, make an announcement to the congregation after the next accounts report is read.

■ Congregations should begin requesting the *2001 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses* with their November literature request. The *Yearbook* will be available in Albanian, Arabic, Chinese, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Spanish, and Swedish. Until the *Yearbook* is available and shipments are made, it will appear as "Pending" on congregation packing lists. *Yearbooks* are special-request items.

■ New Publications Available:

Bible —East Armenian, Urdu
Is There a Creator Who Cares About You? —Slovak

Jesus Christ—Who Is He? (Tract No. 24)
—Lithuanian, Macedonian, Swahili
Pay Attention to Daniel's Prophecy!

—Igbo, Macedonian
The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived

—Amharic, Armenian, Tongan
The Secret of Family Happiness

—Laotian, Myanmar, Serbian,
Shona

The Time for True Submission to God
(for Muslims) —Macedonian, Wolof

AUGUST SERVICE REPORT

Number of:	Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bl.St.
Sp'l Pios.	94	121.8	99.2	54.0 4.5
Pios.	90,927	55.5	36.5	17.8 1.5
Aux. Pios.	18,215	49.6	36.7	12.9 0.9
Pubs.	877,574	9.0	8.0	3.3 0.3
TOTAL	986,810		Baptized:	1,380

QUESTION BOX

■ How can a person who has been inactive for a long time be helped to qualify again as a publisher of the good news?

When an inactive person gives evidence that he has a heartfelt desire to serve Jehovah, this is a cause for rejoicing. (Luke 15:4-6) Likely, the individual allowed opposition or pressures of life to crowd out his personal study, meeting attendance, and participation in the field ministry. How can personal assistance best be given so that he will make spiritual progress?

All of us should take the initiative to reassure this one of our genuine Christian love for him. The elders will be quick to assess his specific spiritual needs. (Jas. 5:14, 15) If the inactivity lasted for a short time, a helping hand from an ex-

perienced publisher might be all that is needed to reactivate the individual in the field service. However, if the inactive one has not associated with the congregation for a long time, more help will probably be necessary. To build up faith and appreciation, a personal Bible study in an appropriate publication may be advisable. In that case, the service overseer will arrange for a qualified publisher to conduct the study. (Heb. 5:12-14; see the November 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box.) If you know of someone who needs such help, talk to the service overseer in your congregation.

Before inviting a longtime inactive one to share again in the ministry, it is advisable for two elders to meet with him to see if he qualifies as a Kingdom publisher. They will follow a procedure similar to that

used when meeting with new ones who are seeking to qualify as publishers of the good news. (See the November 15, 1988, *Watchtower*, page 17.) The inactive one should have an earnest desire to share the good news with others. He also needs to meet the basic requirements outlined on pages 98-9 in the *Our Ministry* book and to be consistent in attending congregation meetings.

Having a good spiritual routine will do much to help the returning one to strengthen and maintain his precious relationship with Jehovah and to keep walking on the road to everlasting life. (Matt. 7:14; Heb. 10:23-25) His putting forth "all earnest effort" and developing Christian qualities that endure will prevent him from ever again becoming "inactive or unfruitful" as a Christian disciple.—2 Pet. 1:5-8.

Cultivating Interest Stimulated by Kingdom News No. 36

¹ Have you completed distribution of your allotment of *Kingdom News* No. 36? It asks a timely question for all to contemplate: "The New Millennium—What Does the Future Hold for You?" As the year 2000 approached, expectations of what the new millennium would bring varied greatly. *Kingdom News* No. 36 considers some of those expectations and reminds us that world conditions do not provide a basis for optimism. The only millennium that will bring the peace and security that most people seek is the Millennial Reign of Christ Jesus. Our confidence in the reality of his Kingdom has impelled us to distribute *Kingdom News* No. 36 to everyone we can.

² **Responses to *Kingdom News*:** Previous distributions of *Kingdom News* have proved to be a fine stimulus to us in our work. Regarding *Kingdom News* No. 35, the Canada branch wrote: "This special campaign was supported enthusiastically by the publishers and pioneers in the field, and many encouraging experiences were enjoyed." No doubt you have shown like enthusiasm for the distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 36.

³ The current *Kingdom News* campaign is scheduled to end on November 17, 2000. Has all of the territory assigned to your congregation been covered? If not, the elders may ask you to continue the campaign until the end of November.

⁴ What has been the reaction thus far to the distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 36 in your locality? A few people will fill out the coupon and request a copy of the *Require* brochure and/or a home Bible study. However,

the majority of those who show initial interest in the subject of the millennium are not likely to take action until one of Jehovah's Witnesses calls back. All who have shown interest should be visited again. When would be a good time to do this? The follow-up should be as soon as possible.

⁵ Note these experiences that resulted from returning on placements of *Kingdom News* No. 35. A pioneer in Ireland left *Kingdom News* with the owner of a restaurant. The woman was impressed with the message and invited the sister back. The sister returned in two days, and a Bible study was started. In Denmark, a copy of *Kingdom News* was left at a house where no one was at home. That same day the woman who lived there sent the coupon to the branch office, which forwarded it to the local congregation. Before the week was over, two sisters called, a study was arranged, and the woman attended her first meeting at the Kingdom Hall! *Response here: 36*

⁶ **What to Say When You Return:** Making return visits on *Kingdom News* placements is relatively easy and is an enjoyable part of our ministry. When doing so, it would be advisable to carry with you a copy of *Kingdom News* No. 36, since the householder may not have his copy. You might try these suggestions.

⁷ After you have reminded the householder of who you are, you could say:

■ "I left a folder entitled 'The New Millennium—What Does the Future Hold for You?' Wasn't it encouraging to read that soon the Millennial Reign

of Christ Jesus will begin, bringing Paradise conditions to the earth? [Show illustrations of Paradise in *Kingdom News* No. 36.] On the back page, you are invited to request a copy of the brochure *What Does God Require of Us?*" Show the brochure, turn to lesson 5, read the first question and paragraphs 1 and 2, and ask the householder to comment. Read and discuss a scripture or two. If possible, consider another question and paragraph, then arrange to return and continue the discussion.

⁸ Since the follow-up offer for November will be the "Require" brochure or the "Knowledge" book, you might say:

■ "When I recently visited you, I left a copy of 'The New Millennium—What Does the Future Hold for You?' It contains an offer of a free home Bible study. I have returned to show you the study aid that we use. [Show the *Require* brochure, and turn to the back cover; or show the *Knowledge* book, and turn to pages 188-9.] The Millennium spoken of in the Bible will bring conditions such as you see in this illustration. To qualify for life in Paradise, we need to take in accurate knowledge of God. Please allow me to demonstrate briefly how we study the Bible."

⁹ The distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 36 has motivated us to intensify our share in the ministry, producing a grand witness. Likely this has stimulated the interest of many individuals in the territory. Our united effort to cultivate this interest will, with Jehovah's help, result in our joyfully locating more sheeplike ones.—Matt. 10: 11; Acts 13:48, 49, 52.