

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

MAY 1987

Vol. 30, No. 5

FOR UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Meetings for Field Service

MAY 4-10

How does Hebrews 13:15, 16 encourage us to

1. Offer a *Watchtower* subscription?
2. Start a study with "Look!" brochure?

MAY 11-17

What points can less experienced ones use in

1. Presenting the magazines?
2. Presenting the current offer?

MAY 18-24

How would you make a return visit

1. On a magazine placement?
2. On a Memorial attender?
3. Where previous call was brief or interrupted?

MAY 25-31

What opportunities are there to witness

1. While traveling to a convention?
2. While in a convention city?

TOPIC FOR CONVERSATION

Who Is God?

John 17:26—Why Jesus made known God's name.

Ps. 83:18—What God's name is.

Maintaining Joy in Our Ministry

¹ What incomparable joy is to be found in serving Jehovah God! It is just as he said long ago through the prophet Isaiah: "Look! My own servants will rejoice . . . Look! My own servants will cry out joyfully." (Isa. 65:13, 14) Why do Jehovah's people rejoice and cry out joyfully today? Because of their spiritual prosperity as they dwell in a spiritual paradise. This joy moves them to share in the all-important work of helping others come to know Jehovah and share in his goodness.

² Learning about present-day increases as set forth in the *Yearbook* brings us much joy. The same was true of Jesus' disciples in the first century. News of Jehovah's blessings upon the preaching work was a source of encouragement. (Acts 15:3, 4) As the ingathering speeds up today, we are encouraged to keep busy in the ministry. Why is the month of May a very favorable time to do that? The weather is usually mild and this year May has five weekends, so many will find it an ideal time to auxiliary pioneer.

BE CONVINCED

³ Heartfelt conviction motivates us to speak to others about our hope. (Luke 6:45) It helps us even in territory that may seem unproductive. We need to persevere, relying fully on Jehovah just as David did, who said: "O Jehovah, may you open

these lips of mine."—Ps. 51:15; 63:5.

⁴ Such conviction is the product of strong faith, genuine hope, and Christian love. (1 Cor. 13:13) These qualities are cultivated through diligent personal study, application of what we learn, and perseverance in prayer. (Rom. 12:12) With Jehovah's loving help, a positive attitude toward our service can be developed and maintained. In this way our joy in the ministry is sustained.

⁵ May is the second month of the *Watchtower* subscription offer. Each issue of *The Watchtower* contains lifesaving information. We benefit from the spiritual food it contains and so will others if they receive and read this magazine regularly. By having a subscription, each issue will be available in their home. With our neighbors' welfare in mind, we want to take advantage of every opportunity to offer the subscription. If the householder is busy, a brief presentation of the subscription offer may be made. If refused, offer the current magazines.

⁶ We know that doing Jehovah's work brings eternal joy not only to us but also to those who listen and act on what they hear. (Phil. 4:4) As the good news of the Kingdom reaches the hearts of many other righteously inclined individuals, may we continue to rejoice in Jehovah, and may Jehovah's blessing be on our efforts in the ministry.—Ps. 32:11.

Responding to Jehovah's Love During Youth

¹ Do you young ones in the congregation see the abundant evidence of Jehovah's great love that surrounds you? Are you responding to that love in a way that is pleasing to him? How can you do that?

² Most of you have loving parents who at great sacrifice to themselves have provided for you materially, spiritually, emotionally, and mentally so as to assure your getting a good start in life. Truly, this is a rich blessing from Jehovah. Additionally, through his organization, he has made available a number of publications and magazine articles designed especially for you, to help you get on in life and be able to cope with everyday cares. If you have taken advantage of these provisions, you are also well equipped to face difficult situations that confound today's youth. Do you view all of this as evidence of God's love for you?—1 John 4:8, 19.

³ Jehovah has made the Bible available to all of us, whether old or young in years. And the ransom benefit he has provided through his Son Jesus

Christ applies to young ones who exercise faith just as it does to faithful older ones. The Kingdom hope is yours, along with its promise of a paradise earth, where you can be free from troublesome anxieties that overwhelm so many of today's young people who have not come to know Jehovah.

⁴ Does it not warm your heart toward Jehovah just to know that he has done so much for you even without your asking? (Rom. 5:8) But beyond just holding an inward feeling of gratitude, how can you respond to Jehovah's love in a practical way?

SHOW HOW YOU FEEL BY ACTION

⁵ You can do things to make the truth your own. For example, you can make it your goal to read the entire Bible in a year. You can do this by determinedly reading four or five pages a day. Learn how to use the *Index* to find answers to your questions. Research and good study habits will contribute to your spiritual

(Continued on page 2, col. 1)

Meetings to Help Us Make Disciples

WEEK STARTING MAY 3

Song 20

10 min: Appropriate Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry* and local announcements. Encourage support of magazine work on Saturday, May 9.

15 min: "Maintaining Joy in Our Ministry." Question-and-answer consideration of article. Feature two demonstrations when considering paragraph 5. In the first demonstration, use current Topic for Conversation and offer the *Watchtower* subscription, which the householder accepts. In the second demonstration, the householder interrupts by saying: "I'm busy." Publisher then uses a suggested response from the *Reasoning* book under "Conversation Stoppers" and makes offer of current magazines, featuring a specific article.

20 min: "Presenting the Good News—Starting Home Bible Studies." Questions and answers. In paragraph 3, present demonstration showing a publisher asking a pioneer or other experienced publisher for assistance in starting a Bible study. Show how to prepare by using "Look!" brochure. After demonstration, chairman points out that each householder is different and has specific needs and interests. Stress importance of advance study and prayer. In paragraph 5, show the same publishers making a return visit and starting a study using paragraphs 1-4 of the "Look!" brochure. Song 126 and concluding prayer.

Jehovah's Love

(Cont'd)

progress. (Prov. 2:2-4; 1 Tim. 4:15) Take the initiative to prepare for meetings and be prepared to comment. At meetings and conventions, take notes of main points and later discuss these with others. By such earnest efforts, you manifest genuine appreciation for what has been done for you, and you will grow spiritually.—2 Pet. 1:5-8.

There are also things you can do to help the congregation. Helping older or infirm brothers in practical ways is a fine response to Jehovah's love. Have you thought about making a regular contribution to cover Kingdom Hall expenses? Just reading Mark 12:41-44 will help you see that

WEEK STARTING MAY 10

Song 157

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Announce Society's acknowledgment of any contribution sent in during April. Theocratic News.

18 min: "Responding to Jehovah's Love During Youth." Question-and-answer discussion. May interview exemplary young publisher who has auxiliary pioneered in the past or who plans to do so on school vacation.

10 min: What Youths Are Doing in Jehovah's Organization. Under direction of an elder or well-qualified ministerial servant, have interviews with or brief reports by well-trained youths on how young Witnesses around the world are making a fine contribution to the Kingdom proclamation. Could include local experiences along with some of those on pages 12-13, 41-2, 51, and 57-8 of the 1987 Yearbook.

7 min: Discussion of Question Box by elder.

Song 164 and concluding prayer.

WEEK STARTING MAY 17

Song 95

10 min: Local announcements. Encourage all to share in magazine work on fourth Saturday. Announce plans for holiday witnessing. Read "A Fine Expression of Brotherly Love." Warmly commend brothers for local response and mention the continuing urgent need for Kingdom Halls.

15 min: "Help New Ones to Make Spiritual Advancement." Questions and answers. In discussing para-

a small contribution from one with little means is much appreciated by Jehovah God and his Son. Volunteer your service when there is a need to clean the Kingdom Hall and its surroundings. There may be opportunities to work at conventions and circuit assemblies if there is a need.

HELPING OTHERS SPIRITUALLY

The apostle Paul responded to Jehovah's love by going out of his way to help others spiritually. Even though you are young, you can do the same by progressively improving your ability and increasing the time you devote to the ministry. Do you have a personal goal of hours each week or month? Many young publishers have been able to conduct Bible studies

graph 2, include brief demonstration showing how to encourage newly interested one to attend district convention. Using pages 18 and 19 of *Doing God's Will* brochure, publisher invites new one to accompany him and his family.

20 min: "1987 'Trust in Jehovah' District Convention"—Part One. Question-and-answer consideration of insert, paragraphs 1-16. Highlight importance of everyone's gaining utmost benefit from convention program.

Song 116 and concluding prayer.

WEEK STARTING MAY 24

Song 214

8 min: Local announcements. Inform congregation of older booklets available for June offer. Encourage all to pick up supplies this week. Give brief presentation of booklets, using current Topic for Conversation if time permits.

17 min: "Following Bible Principles—The Superior Way." Talk by elder based on article in February 1, 1987, *Watchtower*. Give particular emphasis to material under heading "Subjection—How Far?"

20 min: "1987 'Trust in Jehovah' District Convention"—Part Two. Question-and-answer consideration of insert, paragraphs 17-29. Emphasize that good conduct and dress are expected of all in congregation. If any particular problems have been noted locally, may wish to comment on these. As time permits, discuss "District Convention Reminders" that would apply. To be handled by presiding overseer.

Song 212 and concluding prayer.

with schoolmates or others. Perhaps you, too, can do this if you ask for Jehovah's help and courageously put forth the effort. If you are baptized, auxiliary pioneering offers you a fine opportunity to help others spiritually during your school vacations. Can you encourage others to work with you in the auxiliary pioneer work?

Christians are warned against accepting God's undeserved kindness and missing its purpose. (2 Cor. 6:1) May your response to Jehovah's love prove that you appreciate what he has done for you. If you remember your Grand Creator during your youth, you can be sure of benefiting from his love for all eternity.—Eccl. 12:1.

1987 "Trust in Jehovah" District Convention

¹ How superbly the 1987 convention theme describes the feelings of Jehovah's Witnesses! "Trust in Jehovah" is more than just a theme to us; it reflects our deepest convictions. Many people in the world trust in human wisdom and accomplishments; foolishly they put confidence in themselves and their ability to survive. (Ps. 49:6, 7, 10; Prov. 18:11) In contrast, we trust in Jehovah, the Supreme One of the universe, to fulfill his promises toward obedient mankind. We are convinced that he will provide for all our needs and protect us from lasting harm when Satan's system comes to its end. Would you not agree that "Trust in Jehovah" is a most fitting theme for our 1987 district convention series? We can show that we appreciate this spiritual provision in our behalf by being in attendance for the entire three-day convention.

² By now your plans should be nearly complete as to transportation and accommodations. As announced in the February 1, 1987, *Watchtower*, there are 123 conventions scheduled for the United States. Since the convention for 1987 will be for three days instead of four as in previous years, each day will have a full schedule. The program will include talks, demonstrations, and dramas. There will be no arrangement for field service during the convention this year.

³ With the convention being three full days, it will likely be easier for all to attend. Have you approached your employer, if it is necessary, to request time off so that you can be in attendance all three days? The entire program, from the opening music on Friday at 10:20 a.m. to the closing prayer Sunday at approximately 4:00 p.m., will be filled with a wealth of practical, faith-strengthening spiritual instruction and encouragement that we cannot afford to miss.

⁴ **THE PROGRAM:** Each day will have its own Scriptural theme relating to the overall theme of the convention—"Trust in Jehovah." Information will be presented on pioneering, spreading the good news at every opportunity, children and youths, and loyal submission to Jehovah. On Saturday the importance of diligent study and of exerting ourselves in the field ministry will be highlighted. Also, elders will be assisted with timely counsel.

⁵ **BAPTISM:** At most conventions, the talk on baptism will be Saturday at 11:30 a.m. It will be encouraging to hear the baptism talk and observe the candidates making public declaration that they also now fully trust in Jehovah. Even though the discourse is tailored especially for those who are

going to be baptized in symbol of their dedication, we can all benefit by listening carefully and reflecting on our own relationship with Jehovah, no matter how long we have been in the truth.

⁶ Those planning to be baptized at one of the district conventions should be sure to inform the presiding overseer well before the convention so that there will be ample time to review the questions in the *Our Ministry* book. The June 1, 1985, *Watchtower*, page 30, gave this counsel about proper attire for those being baptized: "Certainly modesty should prevail in the type of bathing suit used. This is important today when fashion designers seem to want to flaunt sexuality and achieve almost total nudity. Another factor to take into account is that some suits that appear modest when dry are less than that when wet. No one getting baptized would want to be a cause for distraction or stumbling at an event as serious as baptism." (Phil. 1:10) This would apply to brothers as well as sisters.

⁷ Baptism candidates should endeavor to be in their seats in the designated section before the program begins Saturday morning. After the baptism talk you will be asked to stand during the singing of the closing song. After the third verse has been sung, the attendants will direct the baptism candidates to the immersion site or to vehicles that will take them there.

⁸ **TAUGHT BY JEHOVAH:** It was prophesied: "And all your sons will be persons taught by Jehovah, and the peace of your sons will be abundant." (Isa. 54:13) Those words were addressed to Jehovah's symbolic wife, his heavenly organization. Her "sons" are taught to trust in Jehovah. The district convention is one of the means that Jehovah uses to teach us today. Do you view it as such? You may quickly respond, 'Of course I do.' But while at the convention, are you doing everything possible to absorb the entire program? It is evident that with some this has not always been the case. What can we do, individually and as a family, to ensure that we gain the maximum benefit from the convention program?

⁹ Considerable effort and expense may be required on our part to attend the convention. In addition, the Society and the brothers in the host cities have labored many hours to provide us with the best facilities possible. Add to this the thousands of hours spent by the Society and the speakers in preparing for the program, and it is apparent that we have much for which to be thankful. Will

your appreciation move you to get the maximum benefit from the entire convention?

¹⁰ It is important to get sufficient rest each night. We want to arrive at the convention alert and eager to enjoy every minute of the program. If you arrive tired, you will not find it easy to keep awake and attentive, and your ability to benefit fully from the program will be greatly reduced. So, coming to the convention well rested each day can contribute much to our enjoying the spiritual feast.

¹¹ We will be helped to concentrate if we remind ourselves of why we are going to the convention—to “listen and take in more instruction.” (Prov. 1:5) As recorded in Isaiah 55:1, Jehovah invited his covenant people to partake of life-giving provisions that he offered without cost. But to take advantage of such, they would need to “listen intently.” He added this exhortation: “Incline your ear and come to me. Listen, and your soul will keep alive.” (Isa. 55:2, 3) Similarly, would we be able to accept Jehovah’s generous offer of life-sustaining spiritual nourishment in the modern-day spiritual paradise if we were too sleepy to absorb what the speakers were saying? Obviously, we want to show our appreciation by doing all we can to be mentally and physically prepared so as not to miss any of the program.

¹² One pleasurable aspect of district conventions that we treasure is the association with our brothers. We look forward to renewing old friendships, making new acquaintances, and sharing experiences with one another. Some customarily arrange to visit with family and friends after the conclusion of the day’s session. These reunions can be very enjoyable and spiritually stimulating. But please be sure that such visiting does not continue so late into the evening hours that you are unable to get the needed rest.

¹³ It is suggested that some thought be given to the items we bring with us to the convention site. Some brothers have brought large coolers and other bulky items that could not be placed under their seat. These have been placed in aiseways or on empty chairs. We need to show consideration in such matters since this has resulted in some being deprived of a seat and at times is done in violation of the fire code.

¹⁴ **NOTE-TAKING:** Besides your Bible and songbook, remember to bring a notepad and pen or pencil. We may not be in the habit of taking notes during weekly congregation meetings because most of the talks and demonstrations are taken from material that is available to all in the congregation. Taking in information at the district convention is an entirely different matter. While some of the talks will in time appear in the publications,

others will not. Even if all the talks would eventually appear in print, there are still significant benefits if you take brief, meaningful notes.

¹⁵ Taking notes serves as an aid to concentration. With your pen and pad in hand, isolate the speaker’s key points and key scriptures or a new thought that may be presented. Then make brief notes of these. Usually a sentence or two will suffice for a key point. By following this suggestion, your concentration will unquestionably improve. You will be less likely to let your mind drift or be distracted by some activity in the convention area. You will also be equipped to participate in the review of the convention highlights with your congregation the following week.

¹⁶ Will you have young children or teenagers with you? Then why not arrange for them also to take notes in accord with their ability and age? Let the family know that you plan to review some of the main points brought out by the speakers when you return to your place of lodging or while you are traveling home. Younger children can be encouraged to write down all the scripture citations that are read or note how many times they hear a speaker refer to key words or the theme of his talk. By doing this, they will get much more from the talks. It is good for children to learn to pay close attention at Christian meetings. You will be helping them to build a solid foundation for the future.—1 Tim. 6:19.

¹⁷ **CONDUCT ABOVE REPROACH:** Each year at the conclusion of our district conventions, we generally receive favorable comments about the orderliness and good conduct that was in evidence. Observers often remark about the neat appearance of adults and children alike, not to mention the peace and unity of the brothers while attending the convention. The year 1986 was no exception. But why do we mention this? Because it is encouraging to know that when we set a fine example, it is observed and appreciated by others. (1 Cor. 4:9) More importantly, though, it brings praise to God. We want to honor Jehovah in word and deed, and since people may judge the organization and even the God we worship by our conduct, we want to be ever conscious of how we act.

¹⁸ The manager of one motel wrote: “All of your delegates were very cordial and polite, and we all enjoyed having them with us.” A government official living near a stadium being used by Jehovah’s Witnesses for their convention said: “As a neighbor I can say I believe in your association, in the way in which you clean the stadium. . . . I believe in your discipline.” A police officer said: “You people are really at unity and happy. There is no problem of peace and order when you are here. All are quiet

and disciplined. Your parking is orderly and it is easy to talk to you if there is a problem." A bank manager observed: "Everybody behaved properly. When you are with them [Jehovah's Witnesses] there is nothing to worry about. They are really divine peace makers. This kind of attitude is absent in other groups of people."

¹⁹ There are a number of areas, however, to which we still need to give attention for us fully to 'shine as illuminators,' especially when we are away from the convention grounds, such as at restaurants and motels. (Phil. 2:15) But, first, how are we doing in the matter of unnecessary seat saving?

²⁰ Improvement has been noted in this regard, and for this we commend you. However, please keep in mind that SEATS MAY BE SAVED ONLY FOR YOUR IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS AND ANY WHO MAY BE TRAVELING WITH YOU IN YOUR OWN CAR. It is only natural to want to sit near the ones we came with, and it is expected that immediate family members would sit together. But please do not reserve seats for others. Oftentimes friends locate seats on their own, and the extra ones you saved are not used. Trust in Jehovah, and appreciation for the convention will be evident by our following these directions.

²¹ We should conduct ourselves in an exemplary manner AT ALL TIMES. A number of letters have been received reporting that some brothers left the convention grounds before the program was concluded and rushed to their motel so they could be first in the swimming pool. Unsupervised children and teenagers were among them. Some Witness children remained in the pool for hours, keeping other guests from using the facilities. It was also noticed that some who attended the convention, on returning to their motels, were caught up in the spirit that is so typical of this pleasure-seeking world. This was even reflected in their changing into immodest and faddish attire. In some cases it became difficult to identify them as fellow Witnesses. This emphasizes the need to maintain conduct and grooming that is above reproach at all times.—1 Pet. 2:12.

²² After the convention program has concluded, many enjoy getting together for a meal and association. If the time is used wisely, this can prove to be spiritually stimulating as we share experiences and review the convention highlights. Doing this will give no cause for complaint, since we behave "in a manner worthy of the good news."—Phil. 1:27.

²³ A final kindly reminder has to do with visiting and talking during the sessions. If the program has begun and you are in your seat but then notice a

brother whom you have not seen for a long time passing by, what will you do? Will you stand up, wave, and call out to the brother, or will you quietly remain seated and try to locate him later? What would you think of a brother or a sister who would call out to someone entering the Kingdom Hall after the meeting has started or who would visit in the back of the hall during a meeting? If you have to leave your seat to use the rest room or to take your children there, the loving thing would be to return to your seat as quickly as possible without visiting in the corridors. We have been reminded that being at a convention should really be no different from being at our local Kingdom Hall.

²⁴ **FOOD NEEDS:** As already announced in the January 1987 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, a few adjustments have been made in the food service arrangement. This will enable more of our brothers and sisters who previously worked in food preparation to benefit from the spiritual food presented. However, the willing service of those who are needed as volunteers is very much appreciated.

²⁵ All attending the convention will find the food available to be satisfactory and nourishing, giving good variety for three days. Great care has been taken to buy food of the highest quality. Your giving full support to the food service arrangement will help to defray some of the expenses of the convention.

²⁶ **VOLUNTEER SERVICE:** The emphasis on simplification is particularly noted in connection with the man-hours needed to organize and operate a district convention. Those who have been in the truth many years recall that before and during large conventions, tens of thousands of volunteers were needed, devoting many hours of their time in various convention departments. That labor of love was deeply appreciated, but it often resulted in many of the volunteers missing a great deal of the program.

²⁷ While fewer volunteers and fewer hours are now required to do the work, volunteer help is still needed for the smooth operation of a district convention. Can you have a share? No one should feel that volunteering will mean missing most of the program as some have experienced in the past.

²⁸ When you arrive at the convention site, check with the Volunteer Service Department. Even if you may be able to work for only part of the convention, your services will be appreciated. Children under 16 years of age are required to work with a parent or a guardian.

²⁹ **CONCLUSION:** Convention time is near. We hope to see all of you there. The Bethel family

eagerly anticipates being with you at the various conventions throughout the United States. Jehovah has organized his name people theocratically, and he knows what we need in these final days. Just as Jehovah gathered his people in ancient Israel for spiritual instruction, so he does with his faith-

ful Witnesses today. By this means, Jehovah strengthens and fortifies us to endure faithfully to the end. Then we will be blessed with life in his new system. (Isa. 40:29; 41:10; 1 John 5:14) Of this we are assured as long as we continue to "trust in Jehovah."

District Convention Reminders

ROOMING: Your cooperation in using the listing of accommodations provided by the convention in selecting your rooms is very much appreciated. If you have not already confirmed a reservation, it is necessary to do so immediately if you are planning to stay overnight in the convention city. If you find it necessary to cancel your accommodations selected from the listing, you should write or phone the motel directly, doing so as far in advance as possible. If you have made duplicate reservations with the idea of selecting preferred rooms upon arrival, please cancel the duplicates immediately. Making duplicate reservations and failing to cancel reservations that will not be used damages our reputation and relationship with motel managers who are giving us special rates.

Congregation convention coordinators should be sure that Special Needs Room Request forms have been promptly forwarded to the appropriate convention address. If you must cancel an accommodation made through the special needs arrangement, you should notify both the landlord or the motel and the convention Rooming Department so that the room may be reassigned.

The convention Rooming Department will provide, upon your request, available information on any commercial trailer or camping facilities in the convention area. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your request.

BABY STROLLERS: In many states, baby strollers may not be used in places of public assembly. Fire regulations prohibit parking them in corridors, aisles, or between rows of seats. Since larger crowds may cause congested conditions, baby strollers are potentially dangerous not only to the baby but also to any who may stumble over them. However, car or infant seats are permissible, since these can be secured in seats next to the parents. Your cooperation in this matter will be appreciated.

PROGRAM TIMES: It is the course of wisdom and shows appreciation to be in our seats when the program begins. That will be 10:20 a.m. on Friday and at 9:30 a.m. on the other days at most conventions. Make plans to stay until the sessions conclude. The closing song and prayer will be at 5:35 p.m. on Friday, 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 4:00 p.m. on Sunday.

BETHEL AND GILEAD MEETINGS: A meeting will be

held on Friday for pioneers between the ages of 20 and 40 who are interested in attending Gilead School to receive training for missionary service. There will be a meeting on Saturday for any dedicated publishers between 19 and 35 years of age who are U.S. residents and who would like to enter Bethel service. Announcements will be made at the convention city regarding the exact times and locations of these meetings.

PIONEER IDENTIFICATION: All *regular* and *special* pioneers as well as traveling overseers will need to bring their Watchtower Identification and Assignment card (S-202) to the convention. Those on the list for six months at the time of the district convention they attend may receive \$15 worth of convention tickets upon presentation of their Watchtower ID card at that one convention only. Treat the card as carefully as cash. It cannot be replaced at the convention. Any gift releases or other literature at pioneer rates will be available to pioneers at the bookroom only, upon showing their Watchtower ID card. Those in Bethel service may obtain these same provisions by showing their Bethel ID card.

LAPEL CARDS: These cards are provided as a means of advertising the convention and to facilitate identifying our brothers and sisters in attendance. To this end, please *wear* the specially designed lapel card at the convention and while traveling to and from the convention site. Not only is the card a means of identification but it so often results in giving a fine witness while traveling. You should obtain these through your congregation, as they will *not* be available at the conventions. The lapel cards are two cents each. (Lapel cards have already been consigned to each congregation by the Society, but the plastic holders must be ordered by the congregation.)

A WORD OF CAUTION: Regardless of where you park, you should lock your vehicle at *all* times and *never* leave anything visible inside. Keep your belongings locked inside the trunk, if possible. Also, guard against thieves and pickpockets who are attracted by large gatherings. This includes not leaving anything of value unattended on seats at the conventions. Additionally, it has been reported that there is a greater risk of falls on stairs and ramps when sisters wear high-heeled shoes. Please be careful.

Announcements

● Literature offer for May: *Watchtower* subscription for one year for a contribution of \$4.00. Six-month subscriptions are \$2.00. June: Any combination of five older 32-page booklets for a contribution of 25¢. July: *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth* for \$2.50. Small size, \$1.25. August: Magazine-sized brochure for 30¢. Offer any of the following: *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!*, "Look! I Am Making All Things New," and *The Government That Will Bring Paradise*.

● If any tracts are remaining in the literature supply or publishers have some they have not distributed, effort should be put forth to distribute these in May and June.

● New Publications Available:

New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures—With References (Rbi8)

—Portuguese

Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation? (Small size)

—Italian, Korean

Jehovah's Witnesses—Unitedly Doing God's Will Worldwide —Cebuano, Iloko, Tagalog

"Look! I Am Making All Things New" (Brochure) —Cebuano, Hiligaynon, Iloko, Tagalog

Sing Praises to Jehovah (96-page booklet with 70 songs; congregation and public: 35¢; pioneers: 25¢)

—Vietnamese

The Government That Will Bring Paradise —Marquesian

Watch Tower Publications Index for 1983 —Japanese

Kingdom News No. 32 —Arabic

● New Cassette Recordings Available:

To the Hebrews, The Letter of James (single cassette; congregation and public: \$2.00; pioneers: \$1.75)

—Dutch

Help New Ones to Make Spiritual Advancement

¹ Have you had the joy of studying with someone to the point where he took his stand on Jehovah's side? It is a precious moment when someone symbolizes his dedication by water baptism. Each year tens of thousands take this step, but just as children need guidance as they grow, new ones also need assistance in making spiritual advancement. —1 Cor. 4:14-17; 2 Cor. 6:13.

² No doubt we all rejoiced to see so many new ones in attendance at the Memorial celebration on April 12. Now we need to help them become better acquainted with Jehovah and his organization. How can we do this? Invite and bring newly interested Memorial attenders to the congregation meetings regularly, and help them to get acquainted with others in the congregation. Encourage them to attend the "Trust in Jehovah" District Convention as well as the next scheduled circuit assembly. Make good use of the information on pages 14-15 and 18-19 of the *Doing God's Will* brochure. Do not hold back, judging that they may not be ready. Many have begun regular association a short time after their first contact with the truth.

ASSISTING BIBLE STUDENTS

³ Can more be done to assist our Bible students? Have you taught them how to study? Do they need help to prepare for and participate in

congregation meetings? Encourage them to join the Theocratic Ministry School when they qualify. This will provide them with valuable training and give them confidence. Regular participation in the meetings contributes greatly to spiritual advancement.

⁴ Try to get to know the Bible student well without prying into his personal life. Are there obstacles holding him back from progressing spiritually? If you note that he has adjustments to make in matters of Christian living, kindly and tactfully help him with these.

⁵ Congregation Book Study conductors could arrange to meet those who are studying and encourage them to attend the book study regularly. When visiting a book study group, the service overseer could review with the book study conductor the Bible study activity in that group. They may wish to accompany some of the publishers on their home Bible studies and offer spiritual encouragement. Additionally, when the circuit overseer visits the congregation, he or his wife will be happy to accompany publishers on Bible studies. The service overseer can review the file of Bible study reports and make appropriate arrangements for publishers to take the circuit overseer or his wife along on their Bible studies. —Rom. 1:11; Phil. 1:25; please review km 3/81 Question Box.

⁶ After a new one is baptized, we continue helping him to make further progress. (Gal. 6:10; 1 Pet. 1:22; 4:8; Phil. 3:13-16) Please be sure to complete the two recommended publications with the student, even if he may have attended the Congregation Book Study when either one or both of these publications were being studied. (km 3/83 p. 4; km 9/83 p. 7) Failure to do this may leave the student unprepared spiritually to stand on his own. If anyone feels that because of personal circumstances he is unable to assist a Bible student to reach spiritual maturity, he should talk to the elders about the matter. —See km 5/86 Question Box.

⁷ The joy we receive in seeing a new one make advancement on the way of life culminates in seeing him grow to Christian maturity. He, too, will then be in a position to assist other new ones in making advancement as we all unitedly work toward the goal of life. —1 Tim. 4:16.

A Fine Expression of Brotherly Love

¹ As discussed in *Our Kingdom Ministry* for December 1986, there continues to be an urgent need for more Kingdom Halls. The brothers are making regular contributions in support of the Society Kingdom Hall Fund, and this is indeed gratifying. It is in harmony with the Christian spirit of always being "ready to share." Generous giving by the brothers shows that we are resting our hope on God, who "furnishes us all things richly for our enjoyment." —1 Tim. 6:17, 18.

² In addition to financial support from congregations and individuals, there has been a loving response in other ways. Skilled workers donate valuable time and abilities to assist in the construction of needed Kingdom Halls. Others have contributed equipment and materials. While some of the congregation's skilled craftsmen have been away to assist

in Kingdom Hall construction, other publishers have increased their support of local field service activity. It is encouraging to note the wholehearted cooperation of so many. Since all of us "have gifts differing according to the undeserved kindness given to us," let us continue making full use of these. —Rom. 12:4, 6.

³ Does not your recent Memorial attendance make you keenly aware of the continuing need for more Kingdom Halls? The apostle Paul encouraged the Thessalonians to show their "brotherly love . . . in fuller measure." (1 Thess. 4:9, 10) As you continue doing this in the practical ways here mentioned, you will be exhibiting the Christlike spirit of sharing. (Matt. 10:8; Acts 20:35) By all means, "let your brotherly love continue." —Heb. 13:1.

meeting time: 5:50 cpm 7 14 2 4

PRESENTING THE GOOD NEWS

THEOCRATIC NEWS

Starting Home Bible Studies

¹ Jesus gave all of us a goal in our ministry when he commanded us to "make disciples . . . , teaching them." (Matt. 28:19, 20) The most effective way to accomplish this is through the home Bible study arrangement.

² Starting new Bible studies requires diligence on our part as fellow workers with God. (1 Cor. 3:9) Starting a study also depends a great deal on the heart condition of the individual. Jehovah's spirit operates to draw honesthearted ones and gives us direction in helping them to grow spiritually. This is borne out by the experience of the Ethiopian eunuch. (Acts 8:26-31) He was reading the prophecy of Isaiah but could not understand it, despite his being a Jewish proselyte and an educated man. However, he had a proper heart condition. Jehovah's spirit operated upon Philip to give the eunuch a clear understanding of the prophecy, moving him to request baptism.—Acts 8:32-36.

³ Jehovah continues to use his servants today as instruments in helping honesthearted people to become disciples. How much Jehovah uses us is determined largely by our diligence, effectiveness, and willingness to be used as teachers. Success in starting Bible studies does not come automatically. It requires careful preparation coupled with a sincere desire to impart the truth to others. (Ezek. 9:4; Rom. 10:13, 14) To overcome objections, we should apply suggestions such as those offered in *Our Kingdom Ministry* and in the *Reasoning* book. If you need personal assistance in starting a Bible study, ask those who are experienced to help you. Arrange to work with the circuit overseer when he serves the congregation. The elders, ministerial servants, or regular pioneers may be able to work with you in the return visit work and help you start a Bible study. In this way you will learn how to get the best results from your ministry.

BE WHOLEHEARTED

⁴ Starting home Bible studies requires wholehearted exertion. (Col. 3:23, 24) That means working hard in the house-to-house ministry with the definite goal of finding individ-

uals who want to study the Bible. We must be diligent in making return visits. We often call when people are not at home. Why not vary the times we call, returning when the people are most likely to be at home and more receptive to the Kingdom message? Some have found early evening to be an ideal time. *next month, part in SM*

⁵ Return visits should be well planned, having the specific householder in mind. In some areas a simplified, direct approach is best. The latest brochures and tracts are designed to come right to the point on a particular subject. By acquainting ourselves with them, we may get better results.

⁶ Remember that even though we are well prepared and give an enthusiastic witness, a new disciple is made only with the help of Jehovah's spirit. (1 Cor. 3:6) We should persevere in prayer, asking Jehovah to direct us and to open the hearts of those to whom we preach. (1 John 3:22) Jehovah will see to it that sheeplike ones, like the Ethiopian eunuch, receive an opportunity to accept the Kingdom message. By working in harmony with our prayers in behalf of sheeplike ones, we can become more effective in starting home Bible studies.

Question Box

● Is it proper for elders to review the questions with more than one baptism candidate at a time, and how long should each session last?

There are definite advantages in reviewing the questions in *Our Ministry* with baptism candidates individually. By having each candidate answer every question, the elders will get a clearer picture of his depth of understanding, leaving no doubt as to whether he is ready for baptism or not. Additionally, the one requesting baptism may be more inclined to express himself if he is meeting privately with an elder.

There may be circumstances, however, that could make it appropriate to meet with more than one candidate at a time. It may be practical to meet with a husband and a wife or other family members as a group, especially if they have studied together and plan to be baptized at the same time. Or if there are few elders and an unusually large number preparing for baptism, it may be necessary to

◆ Belize recently concluded their two circuit assemblies with a peak attendance of 1,742. There were 705 publishers that reported activity during the month.

◆ The series of "Divine Peace" District Conventions held in Bolivia saw a peak attendance of 14,136. There were 4,763 publishers that reported activity in the field during December.

◆ Guam reports a new peak of 267 publishers for December, a 10-percent increase over last year's average.

◆ Martinique had an 8-percent increase in December with a new peak of 2,164 publishers.

◆ Puerto Rico's series of circuit assemblies was attended by 38,884, which is excellent compared with the 21,673 publishers who reported in December.

FEBRUARY SERVICE REPORT

	Pubs.	Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bl.St.
Sp'l Pios.	275	127.9	85.0	54.1	6.1
Pios.	52,332	79.3	38.9	28.2	3.0
Aux. Pios.	23,193	59.0	28.7	18.1	1.7
Pubs.	653,950	9.3	6.4	3.7	0.5
TOTAL	729,750				

Newly Dedicated Ones Baptized: 1,879

Schedule for congregation studies in the book *Worldwide Security Under the "Prince of Peace"*:

May 3:	Chapter 6
May 10:	Chapter 7
May 17:	Chapter 8
May 24:	Chapter 9
May 31:	Chapter 10

meet with the candidates in groups of not more than two or three. Good judgment should be exercised in this.

Generally, each session would last about one hour, but there is no objection to using more time if that is necessary. (This may be the case when a group of two or three is involved or when more time is required in order for the elders to make sure the candidate is ready for baptism.) Neither the elder nor the candidate should be rushed in getting through the questions.

The newly dedicated one should be well prepared, having already considered the questions privately and having looked up and read as many of the cited scriptures as possible. There is no need for someone to go over the questions with him before he meets with the elders. All the numbered questions are to be considered. The elders will also take up the optional questions that are appropriate for the candidate.