

Awake!

DECEMBER 22, 1978



FEATURE ARTICLES

- 3 **WHAT THE WORLD WARS DID TO MY FAMILY** Told by a young man who had relatives in both Germany and America during those days
- 4 **DESIRE FOR PEACE, BUT WILL THE NATIONS DISARM?** Facts that are not widely appreciated as to what nations are doing about armaments, and the implications of it all
- 9 **TRUE PEACE—WILL IT EVER COME?** The answer is reassuring, but the agency by which peace will come may not be what you think

OTHER ITEMS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 13 The Greatest Privilege I've Had in Giving | 27 The Bible's View Did God Mean "Thou Shalt Not Kill"? |
| 17 They Won't Forget Their Oriental Tour | 29 Watching the World |
| 24 True Monarch of the Air | 31 Index to Volume 59 of "Awake!" |
| 26 "Anthills" That Are Not | |

WHY THIS MAGAZINE IS PUBLISHED

"Awake!" is for the enlightenment of the entire family. It reports the news, tells about people in many lands, examines religion and science. But it does more. It probes beneath the surface and points to the real meaning behind current events, yet it stays politically neutral and does not exalt one race above another. It also shows how to cope with today's problems. Most importantly, "Awake!" builds confidence in the Creator's promise of a peaceful and secure new order within our generation.

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WHAT THE WORLD WARS DID TO MY FAMILY

Some of the heartaches and sufferings experienced by his relatives are here related by a young student.

STRANGE THINGS happen during international conflicts, as shown by how the first and second world wars affected my family. Let me tell you first about my great-grandfathers Emil and Max.

Emil was my great-grandfather on my mother's side. He was the son of German immigrants who lived in a small town in Minnesota in the United States of America. Emil was about 19 years old when he was drafted into the infantry during World War I and sent to fight in France.

My other great-grandfather on my mother's side was named Max. He lived in Germany in the small village of Einberg. His wife, Mary, had recently died of tuberculosis, and this left Max to care for four little boys, ages ten, eight, six and four. Despite the fact that there was no mother to look after the children, Max was drafted and sent to fight for Germany in France—the same place that my other great-grandfather, Emil, was fighting for America.

One of Max's four sons was Rudy, who is my grandfather. When Max left to fight in France, Rudy and his three younger brothers were left pretty much on their own, although some of the neighbors would look after them from time to time. The boys got very hungry, because their father was not there to buy them food, and food was very scarce because of the war. So they learned how to steal food in order to stay alive.

In the meantime, over in France, my great-grandfathers Max and Emil were fighting in the trenches. One of the war weapons at that time was the gas bomb. The men in Emil's trench were bombed and many died. Emil was taken to a hospital. He recovered, but he suffered after-effects from that gas all his life and died very young. We still wonder if Emil and Max ever met face to face on that battlefield. Both survived this war that was supposed to end all wars.

Later, Hitler came on the scene in Germany. By this time Max's four boys had grown up and were of draft age. Three of them were taken into Hitler's army. But the other one, my grandfather Rudy, had immigrated to America and become a baker. He had settled in the same little town in Minnesota that Emil was from, and he married Emil's daughter, my granny.

Further Hard Times

It wasn't long before America and Germany went to war against each other again. This was a hard time for my grandparents. How they hoped and prayed that my grandfather Rudy wouldn't be drafted and have to go to fight against his own brothers on the other side of the world! As it turned out, the government didn't draft him, because he was considered necessary as a baker to supply food for the community. But all this time Rudy wor-

ried about his brothers in Germany and wondered if they were alive.

When America entered the war, my granny's brother was 17 and about to be graduated from high school. The day after his graduation he was drafted into the army and sent for military training. Would he also have to fight relatives whom he knew about but had never seen?

What had happened to my grandfather Rudy's brothers in Germany by this time? One was a prisoner of war in Russia. Another one was in an American prisoner-of-war camp in France. In one camp the prisoners were so underfed that one day when a cat walked past the barbed-wire fence, my great-uncle caught and killed it, skinned it and ate it raw! Toward the end of the war, the third brother was being transported on a military train. It was the very day the armistice was declared. His train was bombed, and he was killed.

Back in the little village of Einberg, where the four brothers had grown up, other serious things were happening. My great-grandfather Max, who had remar-

ried some years earlier, had two more children. Germany was losing the war and the occupation forces were everywhere in the countryside. Since most of the fathers had gone off to fight, there was no one at home to protect the families.

Homes would be broken into. There was stealing, and sometimes the women were raped. If the villagers were warned that the soldiers were coming, they would take their daughters out and hide them in the haystacks in the fields so that they would be safe.

The war ended, but the effects didn't end with the signing of the peace treaty. My grandfather's brothers went back home to Einberg, Germany, except for the one that died on the train. Their lives have never been the same. One was in and out of the hospital all his life and died very young. The other brother, Bernhard, recently came from Germany to visit us in California. His son has already been through military training. So have my uncles here in America. Does all of this make sense? Where will it all end?

DESIRE FOR PEACE, BUT WILL THE NATIONS DISARM?

NOTHING makes peace more desirable than to reflect on the horrors of war. Millions were killed and horribly wounded in the Vietnam War, but that is only part of the story. Six months after their return, 38 percent of the married United States veterans were either separated or getting a divorce. Some 175,000 were using heroin. And it is also reported that about *half a million* have attempted sui-

cide since their discharge!—New York Times, May 27, 1975.

The case of Claude Eatherly, pilot of the B-29 bomber that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, vividly illustrates the horrible aftereffects of war. Claude was discharged from the military in 1947 after psychiatric tests indicated a "severe neurosis and guilt complex." He was later in and out of mental institutions. "I can

remember him waking up night after night," his brother noted at Claude's funeral this past summer. "He said his brain was on fire. He said he could feel those people burning."

To comprehend more fully the horrors

"Since 1945, American, Soviet and other diplomats have met at least 6,000 times to discuss 'disarmament' and its illegitimate offspring, 'arms control,' but in thirty-two years not a single weapon has been eliminated by mutual agreement."—*The Nation*, May 27, 1978.

of war, reflect on that scene of 33 years ago. It was the morning of August 6, 1945. High above was the B-29 Enola Gay; below was the busy Japanese industrial city of some 400,000 inhabitants. At 8:15 the 13-kiloton atomic bomb, slowed in its fall by three parachutes, exploded at 1,900 feet (580 meters) over the center of Hiroshima. Some 140,000 persons were blasted to death; many of them were roasted alive by the heat and radiation. Victims are still slowly dying due to radiation effects.

The horrors wrought by that atomic blast, and the one three days later over Nagasaki, are beyond human comprehension.

Need for Peace

Less than a month later, on September 2, 1945, Japan formally surrendered. "A new era is upon us," General Douglas MacArthur observed on that memorable occasion. He continued: "Even the lesson of victory itself brings with it profound concern, both for our future security and the survival of civilization. . . . The utter destructiveness of war now blots out this

alternative. *We have had our last chance.* If we do not devise some greater and more equitable system Armageddon will be at our door."

These sentiments have often been repeated by world leaders. In the fall of 1961, United States President John F. Kennedy proposed a "program for general and complete disarmament." He explained that "mankind must put an end to war—or war will put an end to mankind. . . . The risks inherent in disarmament pale in comparison to the risks inherent in an unlimited arms race."

Have the nations since then made positive steps toward disarmament?

Progress Toward Peace?

Soon after stressing the need for disarmament, President Kennedy asked the U.S. Congress to add \$6 billion to the military budget. And that has been the pattern. At one moment there is talk of peace and the extolling of disarmament, but the next moment there are orders for the building of bigger and deadlier weapons. So despite the many fine-sounding proposals—*there are more than 9,000 entries in a current bibliography on arms control and disarmament*—no progress has been realized. *The Nation* of May 27, 1978, observes:

"Since 1945, American, Soviet and other diplomats have met at least 6,000 times to discuss 'disarmament' and its illegitimate offspring, 'arms control,' but in thirty-two years not a single weapon has been eliminated by mutual agreement. On the contrary, the arms race—conventional and nuclear, but especially nuclear—has escalated relentlessly."

Illustrating the failure, "disarmament" generally is not even the subject of discussion anymore; it is 'arms control.' But control of weapons is out of hand. The public in general have lost all confidence that anything in a meaningful way will ever be done to improve the situation.

This was shown earlier this year when the United Nations Special Session on Disarmament was held. In announcing the coming session, a Buffalo News heading read, "U.N. MOVING TO HEAD OFF ARMAGEDDON." The five-week session was historic in that it was the first global disarmament meeting since the League of Nations Disarmament Conference of 1932-34, some 45 years ago. Yet the meetings received very little prominence in the press or other news channels.

As the sessions moved toward their halfway point, Dr. Frank Barnaby, the director of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, lamented that even less than what he had hoped was being accomplished. "There is an air of pessimism; the general atmosphere is pretty awful," he said.

Yet, as informed persons realize, there is a crying need for relieving the critical situation. The danger of nuclear war is very real and *is increasing*, Mr. Barnaby pointed out. And the elderly British delegate Lord Noel-Baker, who was also a delegate to the League of Nations Disarmament Conference, observed: "The great danger is that the facts of nuclear war have just not penetrated."

What are these facts?

In Future Issues

- **God Exists! But What Is He Like?**
- **Playing Indoor Games**
- **Iceland Turns to Geothermal Energy**

Destructive Power

Particularly, they have to do with the great power of nuclear weapons, the tremendous numbers that are on hand, and the sophisticated means that the nations have developed to deliver them to any target on earth. Consider the facts.

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"A Trident has built into it an undersea launching platform for thermonuclear bombs, some of which contain more explosive force than a thousand atomic bombs of the kind that destroyed Hiroshima in 1945. . . ."
—Saturday Review, April 17, 1978.

The words *kiloton* (1,000 tons) and *megaton* (1,000,000 tons) refer to the TNT equivalent of nuclear weapons. Thus the 13-kiloton Hiroshima bomb was only a small "firecracker" compared to modern multimegaton weapons. For example, bombs up to 60 megatons—over 4,600 times as powerful as the one dropped on Hiroshima—have been tested. Yet, in 1945, it took only that comparatively tiny bomb to incinerate 140,000 people, thousands horribly, and to devastate Hiroshima.

A modern weapon may typically be about a megaton—some 75 times as powerful as the Hiroshima bomb. Since each bomb can wipe out a large city, try to imagine what a multimegaton bomb would do to a populated area such as greater New York, London or Tokyo. The nations have *tens of thousands* of powerful nuclear weapons, the Soviet Union and the United States possessing the vast majority. These weapons have the power to kill every human on earth so many times over that the figures become meaningless.

The frightening fact is that this destructive power can be used to destroy practically any target on earth, within minutes of its release. An American president was not joking when he said: "I could push this button right here and in 20 minutes 70 million Russians would be dead."

Today's missile launchers can deliver warheads accurately, within a few yards of a target thousands of miles away. Furthermore, a modern-type missile will carry a number of bombs. Once the missile reaches the general area to be destroyed, each bomb can be directed to a different target. Nor are missile launchers confined to stationary land positions; missiles can be launched from planes in the air or from vessels in the sea.

A single submarine, equipped with nuclear missile launchers, has a capability for destroying 224 separate targets, each as large as a big city! Both the Soviet Union and the United States have dozens of submarines equipped to deliver such destruction, and they are building larger improved ones. Soon the new U.S. submarine, the Trident, will be in service. *Saturday Review* explains:

"A Trident has built into it an under-sea launching platform for thermonuclear bombs, some of which contain more explosive force than a thousand atomic bombs of the kind that destroyed Hiroshima in 1945. . . . Trident officers have in their hands more power than had been accumulated by human beings in recorded history up through 1945."

What It All Costs

All this military preparedness costs money, and lots of it. Since 1945 the nations have spent well over \$6,000,000,000,000 (\$6 trillion) on military activities! The *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* of May 1978 observed: "Global military spending currently runs at about \$400 billion a year." And it is increasing rapidly, climbing toward \$1 million a minute!

The magnitude of the military buildup is staggering. In 1977 James Reston of the *New York Times* stated: "Last year, the nations of the world spent 60 times as much equipping each soldier as we spent on educating each child." Around the world some 60 million people serve in the armed forces or are engaged in military-related occupations. About half the world's scientists are employed in weapons development.

Think of what could be accomplished if all that money and effort were channeled to constructive purposes rather than the building of armaments. There could be

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"In the past thirty-three years, there has been continuous fighting around the globe—or, as one Hungarian professor computed it, 'there were no more than twenty-six days . . . in which there was no war somewhere in the world.' That same professor calculated that in the past three decades, some twenty-five million souls have perished in battle, a figure representing more military fatalities than were incurred in both world wars combined."—*Esquire*, March 1, 1978.
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fine housing for all, better health care and education, and many other benefits. As it is, armament programs are contributing to the bankruptcy of nations, both physically and morally.

The claim is made, however, that military preparedness will prevent war. But has it? To the contrary. Since 1945 more

than 25 million persons have been killed in some 150 wars fought around the globe. On any given day, there have been, on the average, 12 wars going on somewhere in the world. True, since 1945 nuclear bombs have not been used in these wars. But does building up vast stockpiles of such weapons, as well as developing sophisticated methods of delivering them, make their use less likely?

Many do not think so. As a former U.S.

"About 75 percent of all satellites launched have military uses. During 1977, 133 satellites were launched, and of these 95 were military satellites."—The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, May 1978.

congressman from Oregon said: "The cards are stacked now for vast destruction and death. . . . The facts can be stated in a few words. First, thousands of nuclear weapons, many of unthinkable power, exist today. Second, almost all of them are ready for instant detonation. Third, their custodians are human beings."

Yes, humans are imperfect; they are subject to error and prone to selfishness and greed, setting the stage for war. The Bible shows where selfish desire may lead: "Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force."—Jas. 4:1, 2, *The Jerusalem Bible*.

Nations will fight with what is at hand. By 1985, says the Stockholm International Peace Institute, some 35 nations will achieve nuclear capability. With what result? "Stable nuclear deterrence as we

have known it will become impossible," warns the institute, "and war will become inevitable."

Any Hope for Peace?

Mankind's desire for peace is strong. At the recent United Nations Special Session on Disarmament, 500 Japanese observers presented U.N. officials with 20 million signatures on petitions calling for immediate world disarmament. These petitions filled 450 cartons weighing more than 12 tons!

Will disarmament and peace ever be realized? If we are to judge by the actions of world leaders, the answer is a definite, No. They are *doing virtually nothing* to put the armaments race into reverse. This was again illustrated by their attitude toward the Outer Space Treaty of 1967, which it was hoped would make outer space a zone of peace. The *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* observes: "The treaty has done little to check the number of military satellites. About 75 percent of all satellites launched have military uses. During 1977, 133 satellites were launched, and of these 95 were military satellites."

Yet there is basis for confidence that



AWAKE! — DECEMBER 22, 1978

disarmament and peace will be realized. The Bible promise inscribed on a stone wall just across from the United Nations' main building proclaims: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall

they learn war any more."—Isa. 2:4, *Authorized Version*.

But how will this promise be fulfilled? The United Nations obviously has not been able to fulfill it. What basis, then, is there for confidence that true peace will be realized? Is religion the answer?

TRUE PEACE—WILL IT EVER COME?

RELIGION is often viewed as the chief advocate of peace. Especially during the Christmas season do the churches pay homage to the babe Jesus, the promised "Prince of Peace." In religious circles throughout the world the Bible account is retold of the angels appearing to shepherds, and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."—Luke 2:14, *Authorized Version*.

How good those words sound in this war-threatened, yes, and in many places, war-torn, world! Humanity indeed yearns for a genuine peace. Thus the Bible promise regarding mankind 'not learning war any more' strikes a responsive chord in the hearts of many. (Isa. 2:4) But can the world's religions be depended on to promote such a longed-for peace?

What History Shows

Well, what has been the record of the world's religions? Have they been a force for peace, or have they in fact been supporters of war? What was the case in ancient times?

The Encyclopædia of Religion and Ethics, edited by James Hastings, notes: "Egyptian religion never condemned war. . . . In short, all war was moral, ideal, supernatural, and sanctioned by divine precedent." Of Assyria, W. B. Wright says

in his book *Ancient Cities*: "Fighting was the business of the nation, and the priests were incessant fomenters of war . . . this race of plunderers was excessively religious."

'But that was long before Jesus introduced Christianity,' someone may protest. And that is true. Christ's early followers did not support the nations' wars. The book *Paganism to Christianity in the Roman Empire* by W. W. Hyde observes: "During the first three centuries . . . Christians were opposed to serving as professional killers in the Roman armies. This early spirit, however, gradually changed." Yes, in time, Christendom's churches failed to hold to Christ's teachings. The Catholic historian E. E. Watkin acknowledges:

"Painful as the admission must be, we cannot in the interest of a false edification or dishonest loyalty deny or ignore the historical fact that Bishops have consistently supported all wars waged by the government of their country. I do not know in fact of a single instance in which a national hierarchy has condemned as unjust any war . . . Whatever the official theory, in practice 'my country always right' has been the maxim followed in wartime by Catholic Bishops."—"Morals and Missiles," edited by Charles S. Thompson, pp. 57, 58.

Similarly, the late Harry Emerson Fosdick, a prominent Protestant clergyman, admitted: "Even in our churches we have put the battle flags . . . With one corner

of our mouth we have praised the Prince of Peace and with the other we have glorified war." This has been particularly true within recent memory, when "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition" became a popular American song during World War II. But what was the situation in Germany?

Friedrich Heer, a Roman Catholic professor of history at Vienna University, explained:

"In the cold facts of German history, the Cross and the swastika came ever closer together, until the swastika proclaimed the message of victory from the towers of German cathedrals, swastika flags appeared round altars and Catholic and Protestant theologians, pastors, churchmen and statesmen welcomed the alliance with Hitler."—"God's First Love," Friedrich Heer, p. 247.

A few years before, during World War I, the same situation existed: the churches on both sides promoted the war efforts of their respective countries in the most vigorous way. The respected church historian Roland H. Bainton observes in his book *Christian Attitudes Toward War and Peace*:

"American churchmen of all faiths were never so united with each other and with the mind of the country. This was a holy war. Jesus was dressed in khaki and portrayed sighting down a gun barrel. The Germans were Huns. To kill them was to purge the earth of monsters."

The facts are all too evident to be denied. Religion has *not* been a force for peace. Rather, it has been a supporter, and, at times, even a promoter, of war. This is still true. The article RELIGIOUS WARS—A BLOODY ZEAL, in a recent *Time* magazine, noted:

"The scenes are macabre. Religious images adorn vehicles and guns as Christian soldiers, some of them wearing crosses around their necks, storm Moslem strongholds. Moslem soldiers, in their turn, strip

or mutilate the bodies of dead Christian soldiers, tie them to cars and drag them through the streets. In the vicious war in Lebanon, religion is a palpable presence.

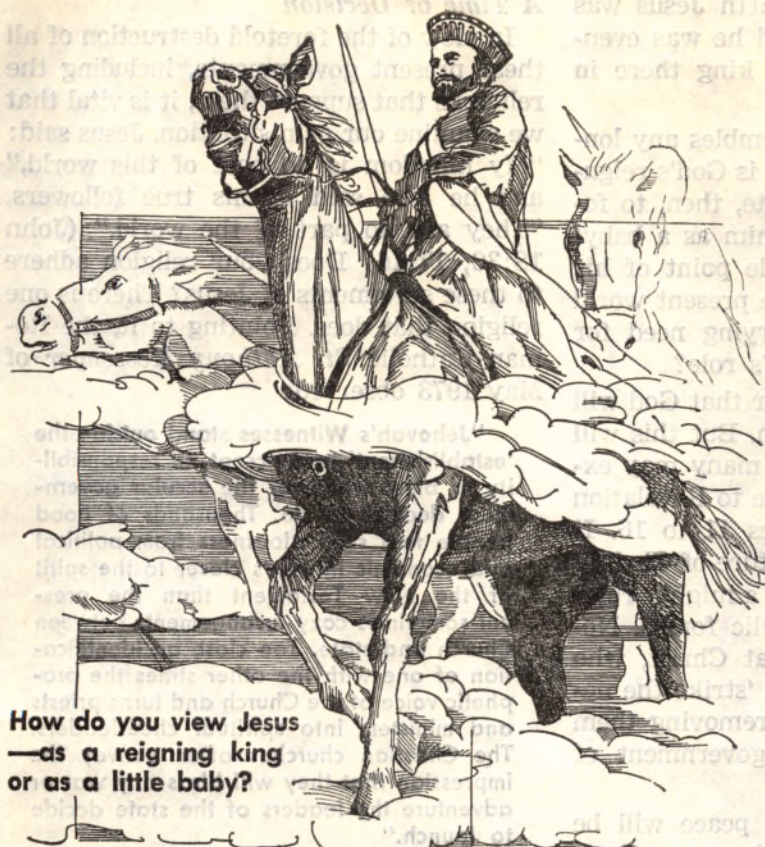
"Fighting and dying under religious flags go on with a violent persistence elsewhere around the world. Protestants and Roman Catholics in Ulster trade killings in a kind of perpetual motion of futility. Arabs and Israelis stand tensely at borders of territorial, cultural and religious dispute. In the Philippines, Moslem separatists are in rebellion against a Christian majority. Greek-Cypriot Orthodox Christians confront Turkish-Cypriot Moslems across a sullen truce line. Pakistan separated from India because Moslems feared the rule of a Hindu majority."—July 12, 1976.

What Christ Must Think

What do you suppose the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, thinks of these religions, especially those that claim to represent him? Surely he is not pleased with them! No doubt he had such religious hypocrisy in mind when he said: "Not everyone saying to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but the one doing the will of my Father who is in the heavens will."—Matt. 7:21.

During the Christmas season, for example, the churches pay a lot of lip service to Jesus, the Prince of Peace. They say that they are celebrating his birthday. Beautiful songs are sung, and artfully contrived nativity scenes are displayed to memorialize the event. But then celebrants commonly go out and engage in wild revelry, drunkenness and immoral living. What are they *really* celebrating?

"The Christmas festival is the Christian revision of the Roman day of the winter solstice," explains the *Encyclopædia Britannica*. The Roman December festivities were terribly licentious, and putting Christ's name to them did not change the situation. Says the book *Curiosities of Popular Customs* by W. S. Walsh: "The



How do you view Jesus
—as a reigning king
or as a little baby?



wild revels, indeed, of the Christmas period in olden times almost stagger belief. Obscenity, drunkenness, blasphemy,—nothing came amiss. License was carried to the fullest extent of licentiousness.”

When the churches attach Christ's name to such riotous festivities, imagine how displeased Christ must be! But consider how the Christmas celebration, in a more subtle way, undermines Christ's position as the Prince of Peace.

A Baby or a Reigning King?

At the Christmas season, how do the churches depict Jesus? Is it not as a babe in a manger? As a result, many people seem to think of Jesus only in such terms, as a baby dependent on the care of others. But is this a true picture of Christ's position?

Not at all! Christ is a prince, being the Son of the Almighty King, Jehovah God. Yet he is more than a baby prince. He has been given rulership and authority. The ancient Bible prophecy foretold: “The princely rule will come to be upon his shoulder. And his name will be called . . . Prince of Peace.” (Isa. 9:6) To fulfill this proph-

ecy, after his death on earth Jesus was raised to heavenly life, and he was eventually enthroned as God's king there in the heavens.

So Christ in no way resembles any longer a babe in a manger. He is God's reigning king! How inappropriate, then, to focus primary attention on him as a baby! We thereby miss the whole point of his role in connection with the present world situation, and with the crying need for peace. And what is Christ's role?

He is the appointed Ruler that God will use to bring peace to earth. But this will not occur in the way that many may expect. Please open your Bible to Revelation chapter 19 and read verses 11 to 16. It is vital that we get the picture of Christ's position here described—as a mighty ruler at the head of God's angelic forces. Notice the scripture says that Christ, who is "The Word of God," will 'strike the nations with a rod of iron,' removing them to make way for God's government of peace.

This, then, is how true peace will be realized. It will not come by any efforts of men—they have totally failed. But it will be realized by means of God's Kingdom government. We are now living at the time when this Bible prophecy will be fulfilled: "In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be brought to ruin. And the kingdom itself . . . will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, and it itself will stand to times indefinite." —Dan. 2:44.

"O God, give your own judicial decisions to the king, and your righteousness to the son of the king. In his days the righteous one will sprout, and the abundance of peace until the moon is no more. And he will have subjects from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth."

A Time of Decision

In view of the foretold destruction of all these present governments, including the religions that support them, it is vital that we examine our own situation. Jesus said: "My kingdom is no part of this world," and he also said of his true followers, "They are no part of the world." (John 18:36; 17:16) Does your religion adhere to these statements of Jesus? There is one religion that does. Pointing to it, the Roman Catholic *St. Anthony Messenger* of May 1973 observed:

"Jehovah's Witnesses stand outside the 'establishment' and accept no responsibility to bless whatever the secular government decides to do. Thousands of good people find such aloofness from political and economic interests closer to the spirit of the New Testament than the present sometimes cozy arrangements between Church and state. Too close an identification of one with the other stifles the prophetic voice of the Church and turns priests and ministers into spiritual cheerleaders. The Christian churches often convey the impression that they will bless any war or adventure the leaders of the state decide to launch."

Clearly, Jehovah's Witnesses are different from the churches and religions of the world. For true peace, they have put their hope and trust, not in the governments of men, but in the rule of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ. If you agree that violence does not make sense, and you would like to live on earth when *peace is universal*, contact Jehovah's Witnesses. They will be pleased to help you to learn more about how true peace will soon be realized under the rule of God's kingdom.

The Greatest Privilege I've Had In Giving

As told by Vicki Johnson to a staff writer



It is often difficult to get persons with healthy ears and eyes to listen to and see the truths concerning God's kingdom. Now I was faced with the challenge of teaching them to a young woman deaf and blind from birth!

MY HUSBAND and I live on the property adjacent to the Helen Keller National Center for the Deaf-Blind, located in Sands Point, Long Island, New York. As we watched the building nearing completion we wondered about people blind and deaf, some even from birth. Never to have seen the beauties of the earth, or to have heard its joyful sounds! The mere thought overwhelmed us; the imagining of life in such total darkness and silence was impossible for us! We know of Jehovah's promise that the paradise earth under his Kingdom rule would restore sight and hearing to those blind and deaf, but how could we convey this hope to those who would soon be our neighbors? We prayed that a way to do this would open up for us.

In September 1977, the way was opened. Our congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses received a letter from Georgine Dilts of Seattle, Washington. She had been con-

ducting a Bible study in Braille with 25-year-old Debbie Curry, a young woman blind and deaf from birth. Debbie was first approached by Dallas Talley, a blind Witness. He studied with her and took her to meetings, but eventually referred her to Georgine Dilts, who knew the sign language for the deaf. And now, Georgine informed us that Debbie was being sent to the Helen Keller Center next to our home. Our congregation was asked to assign someone to continue the Bible study with her. I was the one asked to do this! How could I? My world was filled with sights and sounds. I took seeing and hearing for granted. How could I relate to Debbie in her dark and silent world? How could I communicate with her? I didn't know finger spelling—and even if I had known it she couldn't see it!

When I met Debbie at the institute my fears were lessened, if not totally put to rest. I didn't need to know finger spelling to speak to her. I talked normally, and she used her hand as her ears. As I spoke she rested her thumb on my lips and her fingers on my jaw and throat. By feeling the movements of my lips and jaw and the vibrations of my throat, she knew what I was saying! This is called the Tadoma

method. The word is not yet in the dictionaries. It is formed by combining the first names of the deaf-blind brother and sister first trained in its use—Tad and Oma. Debbie spoke to me with her voice, though I had some difficulty at first in understanding everything she said. Her ability to speak vocally is amazing inasmuch as she has never heard any words spoken!

Her first question was, "When can I go to the Kingdom Hall?" That very week she accompanied me to one of the congregation's book studies, and I arranged to conduct a home Bible study with her. She also started attending certain weekly meetings at the Kingdom Hall. The first is a school that trains us to preach, and the second helps us to organize the preaching work.

Steps Taken to Help Debbie

At first I took along publications in Braille for her to read during the meetings, but that was only temporary. I and another woman in the congregation took courses in both finger spelling and signing words, and in a few weeks we took turns interpreting the meetings for Debbie. She would hold our hand lightly in hers as we finger spelled or signed what was being said. She was happy to feel a part of all that was going on. Later on I had a student talk in the training school. Debbie wanted to take part in it. I planned my presentation so that she could say a few words in it, and this thrilled her immensely. She also comments at the congregation book study.

The Watchtower Society is aware of the needs of the handicapped. It has the books of the Bible in Braille, many of which have been loaned to Debbie. In its Braille department, the Society embosses many of its publications for blind readers. In Debbie's personal Bible study we use the book *The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life*.

She has the book in Braille, reads each paragraph with its question aloud, and then gives the answer. The study articles in every other issue of the *Watchtower* magazine are published in Braille. This made Debbie eager to attend the Sunday meeting at the Kingdom Hall when this magazine is studied.

The Helen Keller Center where Debbie lives must give permission to do this. The Center is not opposed to Jehovah's Witnesses, but it is very protective toward its clients. Jack, one of the volunteer workers, had been taking Debbie to the Catholic church on Sunday mornings. He was very kind to her, took her swimming, to restaurants, and to other places. Those at the Center felt that this was a good arrangement and were reluctant to change it. So the Center favored Debbie's time being divided between us—the Kingdom Hall with me during the week, the Catholic church with Jack on Sunday.

However, Debbie's continual request was to go to the Kingdom Hall on Sunday. Her social worker finally agreed that she could make this change if she would tell Jack of her wish to do so. This was difficult for her. She was fond of him. He had been very good to her. She also wanted him to learn about life in Jehovah's earthly paradise.

She invited Jack to her personal Bible study. He is a staunch Catholic, but he could not say No to Debbie. So he found himself sitting in on what he thought would be something like a Ku Klux Klan meeting. At the Center they had discussed 'these people who whisk Debbie off to several religious meetings a week,' saying that 'one meeting a week was extremely religious,' so 'these people must be strange indeed.' Jack told us this, but added, "You're very normal, hospitable people and you really care about Debbie." He returned to the Center with the recommendation that Debbie be allowed to spend

time with us whenever we wanted to have her. Her attendance at Sunday *Watchtower* studies began immediately.

"I Have No Problems"

One of the *Watchtower* lessons was about 'throwing your burdens on Jehovah.' Afterward I reviewed some of the points with Debbie.

"When we have problems," I said, "we can always go to Jehovah God in prayer and talk to him about them. We should never be hesitant to go to him with any problems that come up in our lives."

This young woman who has spent the 26 years of her life in total darkness and total silence responded, "I have no problems." Compared to her, I am the one who has no problems!

On one occasion a slight problem did arise. I conduct a Bible study with Denise, a teen-age girl who also attends meetings at the Kingdom Hall. She was scheduled to give a student talk, and I was going over her notes with her. Debbie put her hand over the notes. I removed it, but she covered them again. The third time this happened I moved her hand away and held it briefly. Debbie turned her back on me. After finishing with Denise I turned to Debbie. She pulled an old letter from her grandmother out of her purse and handed it to me to read—I'd already read it for her several times. When I got to the part where her grandmother told her that she did not need to be baptized again because she had been baptized in the Bethany Pentecostal church when she was a little girl, Debbie took the letter from me. She was telling me something.

"Then you don't want to be baptized as one of Jehovah's Witnesses?" I asked.

"No."

"You said before that you did. Now you don't?"

"No."

"When did you change your mind?" She didn't answer.

"Do you want to be a Pentecostal or one of Jehovah's Witnesses?"

"Pentecostal."

"Do you still want to study the Bible with me?"

"No."

"Do you want me to pick you up Thursday to go to the Kingdom Hall?"

She hesitated, but finally said, "Yes."

I realized what was the matter. She was jealous because I had spent time with Denise. She wanted to hurt me by rejecting the Witnesses. I let the matter drop, but brought it up at our next meeting. She didn't want to talk about it.

"The last time we talked," I said, "you didn't want to be one of Jehovah's Witnesses. Did you mean that?"

"No."

"You were angry."

"No!" She was adamant. She didn't want me to think that she was angry.

"Yes," I said, "you were angry. That's understandable. You wanted my attention. But it was Denise's turn. My giving attention to Denise doesn't mean that I don't love you. Do you understand that?"

She didn't answer, and I continued:

"It's like a mother who has more than one child. She loves all her children, but she gives attention to different ones at different times. The other day it was Denise's time. This is your time. If you are going to be angry, be angry with me, but never be angry with Jehovah or his truth. I get angry sometimes. It's a human weakness, and we try to overcome it."

Debbie got the point. She has never shown jealousy since. I have learned firsthand what her grandmother in Washington State told me in a letter: "She is a very happy young lady as I'm sure you've dis-



covered, and very rarely displays temper." Debbie's grandmother also provided some interesting information, as follows:

"The film 'A Day with Debbie' is in the library of Congress. This was taken as an educational film to help others who were handicapped. She was between 8 and 9 years old at the time. She has appeared on TV programs, at college classes and many other group programs. This was to instill in parents the fact that a handicapped child can and should have opportunities for an education and also have a part in community activities."

The grandmother's letter to me closes very graciously: "Again I want to thank you, your husband and your friends who have been so kind and loving to our Debbie." I greatly appreciated her letter. She is concerned about Debbie's welfare. When I started studying with Debbie her grandmother checked with the Center about this. The social worker assured her that it was good for Debbie, that Jehovah's Witnesses

are "a tightly knit group who really care for those they study with."

Joys Shared with Debbie

Early in my relationship with Debbie I wanted to make her feel at ease with me. I said to her: "I want you to feel free with me. Don't hesitate to ask any questions that you want to." To my amusement and delight she responded immediately, "Can we go out for pizza?" She enjoys eating at restaurants, and if it isn't pizza it's hamburgers and French fries. She has asked me to take her swimming. She is cute in the way she makes her requests. Instead of coming right out and asking, she usually says, "What are you doing Saturday morning? In the afternoon? Saturday evening? Sunday afternoon?" She goes to some dances, has a vibrator on her arm that picks up the vibrations, and in this way she enjoys music.

Another joy we share is telling others about Jehovah's kingdom. After studying the Bible a few months she wanted to join me in witnessing from door to door. I prepared a brief written message for her to present to the householder. It tells them that she doesn't see or hear, but would like for them to consider this scripture—I then read the text and a discussion follows. Debbie knows the importance of sharing this knowledge with others and wants to do her part. After her first time going from door to door with me she said: "When can I have a Bible study with someone? I want to teach people the Bible." Through Debbie and her social worker all those at the Helen Keller National Center know about the work of Jehovah's Witnesses.

When my husband and I took her to the Watchtower Society's world headquarters in Brooklyn she was interested in touching things. Generally we had tried to get her to touch objects, thinking this

would help her to learn about them. But, strangely, she is reluctant to do this. However, when touring the printing plant she wanted to touch everything—paper, cloth, flexible glue, machinery. Under careful supervision she even felt the vibrations of the big rotary printing presses as they turned out thousands of books or magazines.

Our greatest joy shared with Debbie came at the "Victorious Faith" International Convention held in July at Shea Stadium in New York. There, before 55,000 conventioners, Debbie, along with 486 others, symbolized her dedication to Jehovah God by water immersion! The event was televised on that evening's newscast.

The Supreme Joy That Lies Ahead

Debbie eagerly looks forward to the time in Jehovah's paradise earth when she will see and hear as other people do. Imagine her thrill when she first opens her eyes

and sees mountains, forests, rushing rivers and surging oceans, flowers and birds and graceful animals, men and women—and herself! I hope that I am privileged to be there to see this, and to see her wonder and amazement as she hears the song of a mockingbird, the sound of the wind, the hum of insects, the roar of a waterfall, and human voices—including her own! We tend to take all of this for granted. Debbie Curry won't. Do we fully appreciate our eyes and ears? Debbie Curry will.

At times it is taxing to work for hours with Debbie, but it's worth all the effort when she says, "I prayed to Jehovah for strength last night," or when she smiles and literally shivers with happiness over some little thing, or when she stops in the middle of her Bible study to hug me and say, "I love my Bible study." Truly, in my 40 years as a Witness, this has been the greatest privilege I've had in giving!

They Won't Forget Their Oriental Tour!

"UNFORGETTABLE days!" That was the way one couple expressed themselves about their tour of the Orient. Those sentiments were echoed by the many different tour groups that traveled there from various parts of the globe.

What was the object of these tours that resulted in such expressions of appreciation? It was the series of "Victorious Faith" International Conventions of Je-



At Honolulu, conventioners came from many lands, including these from Ponape in the Pacific

hovah's Witnesses held in Oriental lands during the late summer.

Taste of Things to Come

Before the tours made their long journey to the Orient, a taste of good things to come was experienced in the Hawaiian Islands. The visitors were welcomed with the traditional Hawaiian warmth and hospitality.

Two international conventions were held there during July, with more than 17,500 attending. In addition to the upbuilding program centering on God's purposes, the visitors were treated to a display of local flavor. On three of the days, before the program began, a one-hour presentation featured colorful songs and dances of Hawaii and other islands of the Pacific. First-hand reports told of developments in places that many visitors had barely heard of, such as Truk, Ponape, Palau, Kosrae, and Yap.

One of the experiences related was from Yap, in the Western Pacific. An 18-year-old Witness greatly desired to attend the assembly in Hawaii, but had no way of making the money to pay the fare. Her father had died and her mother had abandoned her. To help her to attend the assembly, her fellow Witnesses gave her \$500 (U.S.). Some of them started fishing, sometimes six to eight hours a night, selling the fish in the morning. Other Witnesses picked coconuts after work and sold them to stores. Also, they made copra to sell. From these activities an additional \$900 (U.S.) was obtained, enabling the young Witness to attend assemblies, not only in Hawaii, but also in the continental United States and Canada—her first trip off the tiny island of Yap!

On to Japan

A little over a week later, international conventions began in Japan. Of the many tours headed that way, one left from

Anchorage, Alaska, aboard a Japan Airlines flight. One of the tour group related the following:

"It was after 5 p.m. when the giant DC-10 became airborne. We marveled at the sight of Alaska's rugged mountain ranges below and at Mount McKinley in the distance, bathed in the light of the setting sun.

"About then a voice greeted me with the remark: 'Is this your first trip to Japan?' The young woman was Oriental, but from San Francisco, and was not part of our tour. 'You'll love Japan,' she said, but then added, 'Americans are always so open and so ready to smile even at strangers. Japanese by nature are not like that.' But she was in line for a pleasant, unexpected surprise.

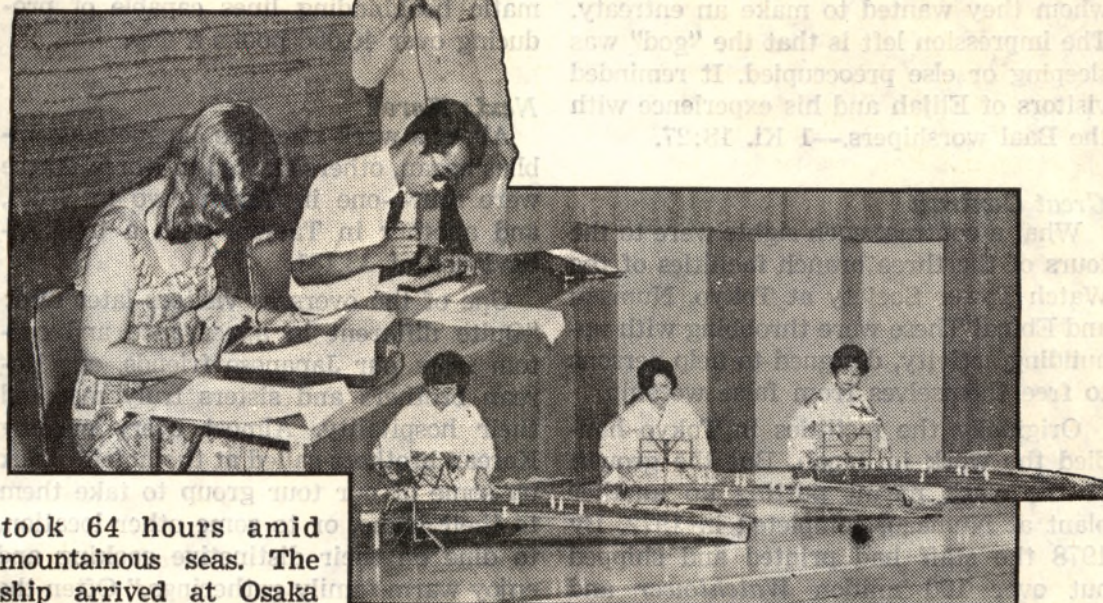
"Hours later, when we arrived in Tokyo, we were greeted by a whole congregation of Japanese Witnesses who had come to meet us. We were engulfed in a burst of excitement and friendliness. There were shouts of joy, applause, hugs and kisses. This demonstration of extraordinary warmth was very touching. I then turned to the woman who spoke to me on the plane about the Japanese being reserved and asked jokingly: 'Did you say Japanese don't smile, that they're reserved?' She laughed and shrugged her shoulders."

Assembly Experiences

Nagoya, Osaka, Sapporo and Tokyo were the convention cities. Together they had an attendance of over 78,000, about 47,000 more than in 1973, the last time international assemblies were held in Japan.

When the assembly at Osaka was about to start, two vicious typhoons headed toward that coastal city. More than 800 Witnesses coming by chartered ship from Okinawa had to brave one of these typhoons. What was normally a 35-hour journey

At Osaka, a 'contest' between an abacus and an electronic calculator resulted in a 'draw'; visitors were also treated to a performance on the "koto," a stringed instrument



took 64 hours amid mountainous seas. The ship arrived at Osaka at 7 a.m. on the second day of the assembly. And where did the delegates go? To their accommodations to rest? No, they went straight to the convention! And after the day's sessions, a group of these Okinawans volunteered their services to work at the assembly!

Many were impressed by a heart-touching procedure experienced by each speaker just before giving his talk. Because of the typhoons, there was much rain. So an elderly Witness, one who has been preaching full time for more than 20 years, waited with shoe-

cleaning equipment. She took the dirt and mud off each speaker's shoes and polished them, a modern-day version of Jesus' instructions to "wash the feet of one another." —John 13:14.

Religious Superstition

Not far from Osaka is the city of Kyoto, where there are many Shinto and Buddhist temples and shrines. A tour was arranged to visit some of these places.

But what are those papers tied to trees in the gardens of the temples? A guide explains that those who have certain wishes buy a printed prayer or oracle that is prepared for that particular wish. Then the purchaser goes to a tree in the temple area and ties it to a branch. The individual is not thinking of a personal God, but of the "spirits" of people, now dead, who made the temple or shrine famous. It is felt that they were persons of power and can grant favors from 'the other world.' Yet, God's Word clearly shows that the dead are unable to help the living.—Eccl. 9:5, 10.

The travelers also saw people coming to large altars housed in the temples or shrines. These people would throw

an offering of money into a large box, then pull a cord so that a wooden block would strike a bell. Others would clap their hands. It was explained that these actions attracted the attention of the "god" to whom they wanted to make an entreaty. The impression left is that the "god" was sleeping or else preoccupied. It reminded visitors of Elijah and his experience with the Baal worshippers.—1 Ki. 18:27.

Great Contrast

What a contrast such sights were to the tours of the three branch facilities of the Watch Tower Society at Tokyo, Numazu and Ebina! These were throbbing with up-building activity, designed to help persons to free themselves from false worship.

Originally the facilities in Tokyo handled the work in Japan. But the growth of the work meant putting up another plant at Numazu, completed in 1972. By 1978 the staff had printed and shipped out over 100 million *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines from this factory!

As the work continued to expand rapidly another property was obtained at Ebina. Now a factory is going up there with a floor space of over 10,000 square meters (107,000 square feet), more than

A delegate from the United States enjoys the association of new friends at the Seoul, Korea, assembly



three times the space at Numazu. All the work is being done by Jehovah's Witnesses, and completion is expected in a year. The facility will house 350 workers, a new four-color offset rotary press and automatic bookbinding lines capable of producing over 40,000 books a day.

Next: Korea

About a week after the Japanese assemblies began, others started in Korea. There were four—one in Taegu, two in Seoul, and another in Taejon, with a total attendance of 33,181.

One of the overseas visitors later said: "Quite different in appearance and custom from our Japanese friends, our Korean brothers and sisters truly matched their hospitality. Almost every evening Korean brothers called at the hotel to pick up some of our tour group to take them to their home, or to some other location, to dine on their distinctive cooking and enjoy warm family gatherings." Often the visitors were treated to Korean music, song and dance. All were deeply impressed with this warmhearted hospitality.

The Korean Witnesses face many problems. Family opposition due to tradition is prevalent. One experience related was that of a police officer whose wife became one of Jehovah's Witnesses. In his rage he told her: "You quit this religion, or I'll shoot you!" In anger he took out his gun, and then to 'save face' shot, but with the gun pointed at the ceiling. Yet he later became interested in the Bible, and now is one of Jehovah's Witnesses himself, along with all six of his children! Recently, he has been appointed a Christian elder.

After the Japanese and Korean tours, one visitor exclaimed: "So far our trip was like climbing a mountain—the higher one climbs the greater the thrill. The farther we went on this tour the greater was our joy of being with our fellow servants

A cafeteria with plenty of rice for conventioners at Taipei; and a mother from the Amis tribe with her baby

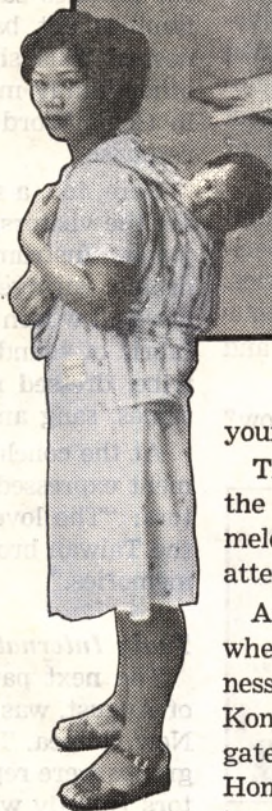
of God in these different countries. So we asked ourselves: Can anything equal what we have experienced so far?"

Hong Kong was ready to meet the challenge.

Enthusiastic Chinese

It was interesting to learn that more than 500 of the 750 Jehovah's Witnesses in Hong Kong had never attended an international convention. They were thrilled to have so many visitors from different countries. Said one: "This convention helps us to realize that people of one faith can live together in peace and harmony." Another commented: "Truly we are all being taught by Jehovah no matter what our race or color, or what language we speak."

The Hong Kong brothers and sisters warmly welcomed the visitors. One visitor related: "Their open friendliness pleased us instantly. They would come up in groups of threes and fours and say: 'My name is Loo Mei Ling. But Rose is my American name. Loo is my family name. What's



your name? Tell me an experience.'"

The convention program conducted by the Chinese was outstanding, as was their melodic singing. All were delighted by the attendance of over 1,300.

Another unforgettable highlight was when the visitors joined the Chinese Witnesses in calling on the people of Hong Kong in their homes. An overseas delegate said: "So many of us took part that Hong Kong looked as though it was under invasion by Westerners. Some of us memorized brief introductory comments, such as 'Jo San,' which is supposed to mean 'good morning,' depending on how you say it! We would say the phrase at the door and then our Chinese partner would quickly step in and rescue us by talking to the householder in the native tongue. These moments together, whether calling at the homes, visiting the branch, or attending the assembly, had an emotional, rewarding spiritual effect on all of us."

Philippine Hospitality

As August drew to a close, the next stop for many tours was Manila, in the Philippines. There two adjacent stadiums in the Rizal Memorial complex were used, with a combined attendance of over 35,000.

A pleasurable visit was made to the branch office of the Watch Tower Society in suburban Quezon City. Busloads of foreign delegates would pull into the driveway, and right there on the spacious lawn the members of the branch and other helpers were ready to serve food and cool drinks before the visitors made a tour of the premises.

Sharing meals together with the Philippine Witnesses and hearing their experiences added more unforgettable memories. In the evenings various ones of the tour would come together to compare notes and exchange thoughts.

But time was moving fast. Tomorrow?



Welcome sign at the Papua New Guinea assembly in Port Moresby includes directions in Pidgin English

Off to Taipei, the capital city of Taiwan, for the next international assembly.

Not Easily Forgotten

Many of the travelers will long have vivid memories of their visit to Taiwan, with its bustling capital city and many scenic attractions. But most unforgettable was the thrill of being with their fellow

Witnesses in Taiwan for the very first time and seeing their strong faith in God.

That faith is being tested in Taiwan. One reason why is that when a person becomes one of Jehovah's Witnesses, often the rest of the family bitterly opposes. However, at the convention, where over 1,600 attended, four Chinese from different families saw other members of their families get baptized as Jehovah's Witnesses! This showed that trying to help other family members to learn the truths in God's Word at times gets a favorable response.

Here, too, a special program was put on for the visitors, and it was immensely enjoyed. Instruments such as the flute, drums, stringed instruments and gongs were all woven together into a fascinating fabric of sound. Witnesses from the Amis tribe, dressed magnificently in their costumes, sang and danced for the tours.

At the conclusion of the visit, this comment expressed the feeling of all the visitors: "The love and hospitality shown by the Taiwan brothers will always be in our memories."

Truly International

The next part of our tour, at the end of August, was to Port Moresby, in Papua New Guinea. There 80 different language groups were represented! About 1,000 visitors (mostly white) from other lands met with about 2,000 native Witnesses.

The impact that these various groups had on one another was unforgettable. The average white does not treat these native people kindly. Yet here was genuine fraternization by peoples of many races, with real love shown.

The assembly of almost 3,000 was the largest meeting of Jehovah's Witnesses ever seen on this island. It was a real "eye-opener" for the 110,000 residents of Port Moresby.

The transforming power of God's Word was evident from the experience of a Witness from the highlands. In earlier days he had been a leader in fierce intertribal fighting, had killed several people and wounded many others. But now, as a Witness, he travels in the same area where he had led tribal feuding, preaching the good news about God's marvelous healing of spiritual wounds, and the physical healing to come in God's new order.

Peace Instead of Battle

From Port Moresby a flight of just over two hours took visitors to Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. About 35 years ago this island made world headlines as a theater of the Pacific war. The vicious fighting resulted in many casualties. At the bottom of one bay alone there are said to be at least 48 warships, as well as many other ships, sunk in the fighting.

But early in September, Guadalcanal was the scene for a gathering of the most peaceful people on earth. They were attending the "Victorious Faith" International Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses at the city of Honiara. The Witnesses working on convention preparation got a jarring reminder of the war days when a long-buried 500-pound bomb exploded just outside of town.

Part of this preparation was the building of special accommodations for the native Witnesses from the various islands. These were long houses with walls and roofs of thatched palm leaves. Some of the Witnesses had worked full time for several months, first cutting the leaves on their home island of Malaita, then traveling with them to Honiara where they were sewed into panels. Then came the erection of timber frames and the closing in of the houses with the leaf panels.

Of great interest was the number of

former heathen among the native Witnesses. Some had been heathen priests, active worshipers of the Devil, living according to rules that labeled living in the same house with a woman, or even eating food cooked or handled by a woman, as *tambu* (forbidden). But now at the convention these same ones sat down with their brothers and sisters, ate food prepared by sisters, and were happy that the clean worship of Jehovah had freed them from their former enslaving *tambu*.

The assembly made a deep impression on the community. On the Sunday of the convention the town clerk spoke on the radio to express his pleasure with the care that the Witnesses had taken of the Community Center, where the assembly was held. He said it was far cleaner than the regular employees had ever left it. Over and over, local Witnesses were approached by people who knew them and who told them how impressed they were by the organization and the program. Also gratifying was the attendance of nearly 1,500, the highest ever for the Solomon Islands.

Following the convention, the many visitors departed for their widely scattered homes all over the globe. They would take with them the good things that they had heard and experienced at all the Oriental assemblies.

The tours were arranged primarily for spiritual purposes, to be with the Oriental brothers and sisters, and to experience an interchange of encouragement. Those purposes were fulfilled beyond expectations, causing one visitor to say: "Those were truly unforgettable days, days in which extraordinary hospitality and love were shown." Thus it can be understood why many said that they regarded this series of international assemblies as "the best yet."

TRUE MONARCH

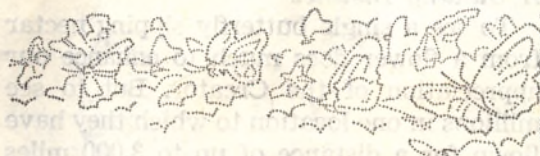
of the AIR



IN THE year 1919, aviators Alcock and Brown successfully made the first nonstop crossing of the Atlantic Ocean in a heavier-than-air machine. Understandably, the news flashed around the world. It was an extraordinary achievement.

Yet, strangely, 43 years earlier a feat of even greater wonder did not prove worthy of note, except in the records of a few entomologists. It was in 1876 that *Danaus plexippus*, commonly known in England as the milkweed butterfly, was reported as having been seen in the southwestern corner of the country. As the milkweeds, the only plants on which this butterfly can feed, are not indigenous to the British Isles, how had it arrived? The thought that it had flown from its American home, some 3,000 miles (4,800 kilometers) away, seemed absurd. Yet, in 1880 several specimens were captured aboard a steamer 200 to 300 miles (320 to 480 kilometers) into the Atlantic, outward bound from Glasgow. Speculation continued over a period of 70 years as some 150 specimens were recorded as having been seen or caught.

Since only two milkweed butterflies were found along the French coast, with just an additional four in Spain and Portugal, many persons reasoned that these creatures must have come east aboard ships, or that they even alighted on vessels en route. But to the present day their appearances have been frequent and many persons reason that maybe, after all, these fragile insects do make their own way on such an incredible journey. Why this view? Because of what is now known of the remarkable achievements of these creatures, identified in the United States and Canada as the monarch butterfly.



By "Awake!" correspondent
in the British Isles



This handsome creature is immediately recognizable by its large orange-brown wings and strong dark-patterned veins. These markings have earned for it a third name, the black-veined brown. It is a common butterfly also familiar to the inhabitants of Australasia and the islands of the Pacific Ocean. Yet, its North American life-cycle is so intriguing that it has been the subject of a life-time study.

The Migratory Pattern

As a young lad, Dr. Fred A. Urquhart, a zoologist, first became interested in the monarch. In early January 1976, thanks in great measure to \$24,000 (U.S.) received in research grants, Urquhart (now a professor at the University of Toronto) ended his search for the winter home of his elusive monarch after successfully tracing its routes of migration. Nearly 40 years of patient, painstaking research were at last rewarded.

Seeking to avoid the hard winter frosts, the monarch regularly leaves Canada and the northern part of the United States, flying in a southerly direction. Unlike birds, the monarch travels alone, each following its individual, instinctive path. Flying anywhere between five and 500 feet (1.5 and 152 meters) above ground, it meanders ever southward, traveling, at times, up to 80 miles (129 kilometers) a day. Many of these beautiful creatures

perish during the journey, but a succession of broods, arising from the flight path, swell their numbers to a mighty throng.

As studies continued, more unexpected facts came to light. It was noticed that almost all male monarchs die on the return flight from their winter home. What, then, is the reproductive sequence? A close analysis has revealed that, with the declining daylight hours of late summer, the development of the female sexual organs of late-hatching monarchs is retarded—and the same probably holds true of the males. As a result, infertile swarms of south-migrating butterflies grow to sexual maturity in their winter habitat as the days lengthen there. Breeding then takes place during the following northerly spring migration.

"A Glorious, Incredible Sight!"

In an effort to locate the winter resting place, various ideas were tried out. Initially, thousands of sticky labels were tenderly stuck to the butterflies' wings. But a sudden night of heavy rain washed them off the sheltering monarchs. Eventual success came with special supermarket-type tags with their modern adhesive. Over the years some hundreds of thousands of the marked monarchs were released, and reports grew in volume as thousands of willing observers sent their findings to Toronto. The migratory pattern became clear, although the

final destination remained a mystery, with the evidence pointing to Mexico.

The thrilling culmination of the search was reached when two volunteers, after crisscrossing Mexico for close to a year, stumbled onto the colony in 20 acres (8 hectares) of Mexican mountainside. Ten thousand feet (3,000 meters) above sea level, countless millions of monarch butterflies filled the air, covered the ground and festooned an estimated 1,000 *oyamel* trees. Capturing the thrill of his visit to this isolated location, Professor Urquhart, writing in the *National Geographic* magazine, thus described the wonders that met his eyes: "I gazed in amazement at the sight. Butterflies—millions upon millions of monarch butterflies! They clung in tightly packed masses to every branch and trunk of the tall, gray-green *oyamel* trees. They swirled through the air like autumn leaves and carpeted the ground in their flaming myriads . . . I muttered aloud, 'Unbelievable! What a glorious, incredible sight!'"

"Anthills" That Are Not

On first seeing peculiar reddish structures that are popularly known as anthills, travelers in West Africa may have their curiosity aroused. These "hills" may be more than four feet (1.2 meters) wide at the base, and may reach 20 feet (6 meters) in height. But they are not anthills at all. Called *termitaries*, they are constructed by termites from the red laterite soil that covers most of Africa. The particles of earth are cemented together and built up to form a sugarloaf-like hill. Ridges along the sides give the structure a buttressed appearance. Although internally segmented by several stories, channels and chambers for the different categories of this social insect, the hill is strong enough to bear more than the weight of a man.

Except in resemblance, termites are not related to ants. They more closely belong to the family of the *mayfly*. In many parts of Africa, roasted termites are considered to be quite a delicacy and often form a needed protein supplement to the diet.

A Guiding Instinct

To see a single butterfly sipping nectar from a flower does much to enhance our appreciation of the Creator. But to see millions in one location to which they have flown for a distance of up to 3,000 miles (4,800 kilometers) logically prompts the question, Why? Even now, nobody can answer with complete certainty as far as the monarch is concerned. But it would seem that the cool winter temperature of Mexico's Sierra Madre is just what is needed to help the butterflies to conserve their reserves of fat for their ensuing flight in the warming spring days.

Whatever the reason, man can but wonder at the faultless instinct guiding such migratory creatures. They weigh less than .009 ounce (250 milligrams) and yet have the ability to fly at 12 to 14 m.p.h. (19 to 23 k.p.h.). Moreover, the monarchs face storms and heat, open country, mountains and cities to find their way over thousands of miles to the foreign home they have never before visited, only to depart once more and never see it again.

The Bible's View



WHO has not heard someone say, 'In the Ten Commandments God commands, "Thou shalt not kill"?' During recent wars some men gave that as their reason for refusing to fight. It also comes up in discussions of capital punishment.

Yet others refer to this command when trying to show that the Bible is contradictory. One booklet with that aim has a heading "Killing Forbidden" and lists "Thou shalt not kill. (Ex. xx. 13.)" but then calls attention to cases in which God told the Israelites to execute others. (Ex. 32:27; 2 Ki. 10:11, 30) And Jehovah directed the Israelites to exterminate enemy nations. (Deut. 7:1, 2, 16; 12:31; Josh. 6:12-21) So did God really command, "Thou shalt not kill"? What does the sixth of the Ten Commandments mean? And does it categorically rule out warfare and capital punishment?

The phrase "Thou shalt not kill" sounds familiar to most persons for that is how some popular Bibles render Exodus 20:13. (Deut. 5:17) If, though, you look up this text in many modern translations, you will likely find "You must not murder" or "You must not commit murder."* Why the difference?

* New World Translation, Today's English Version, The New English Bible as well as translations by Moffatt, Fenton, T. F. Meek and R. Knox.

Did God Mean "Thou Shalt Not Kill"?

The original Hebrew word involved is *ratsahh*, which literally means "to break" or "to dash to pieces." In his Hebrew lexicon, scholar John Parkhurst explains that in the Bible *ratsahh* "denotes manslaughter or murder, i.e. either the accidental or wilful taking away of a man's life."

It is noteworthy that of the 47 times *ratsahh* is used in the Hebrew Scriptures, 33 involve Israel's cities of refuge. These served in cases where one man took another's life. If it was determined judicially that the manslaughter was unintentional, the manslayer could remain in the city. But if legal investigation showed that he killed with malice or deliberateness, he would pay with his own life. With these two possibilities in mind, notice how *ratsahh* is appropriately rendered three times:

"As cities of refuge they will serve for you, and the manslayer must flee there who fatally strikes a soul unintentionally. . . . Now if it was with an instrument of iron [deliberately used as a weapon] that he has struck him so that he dies, he is a murderer. Without fail the murderer should be put to death."—Num. 35:6, 11-34; Deut. 4:41-43; 19:1-7; Josh. 20:2-6; 21:13-39.

Other verses indicate that *ratsahh* usually applied to the taking of human life unlawfully, contrary to God's law. Observe the associated things mentioned in Hosea 4:2: "There are the pronouncing of curses and practicing of deception and murdering and stealing and committing of adultery that have broken forth, and acts of bloodshed have touched other acts of bloodshed."—Jer. 7:9.

As shown above in the punishment for the deliberate murderer, not all taking of human life was considered *ratsahh* (murder), nor would it be prohibited by the sixth of the Ten Commandments. After the flood Jehovah God pointedly told Noah: "Anyone shedding man's blood, by man will his own blood be shed, for in God's image he made man." (Gen. 9:6) Yes, even be-

fore he gave a law code to Israel, God permitted capital punishment. "Shedding man's blood" by murder was what was forbidden by the Sixth Commandment, not the legal execution of a murderer.

This helps us to appreciate the use of *ratsahh* in connection with King Ahab. The king coveted Naboth's vineyard and let the man be killed to get it. It was not a case of King Ahab's directing a legally justified execution of someone who had committed a capital offense in Israel. Rather, it was an illegal killing of a man, something forbidden by the Sixth Commandment. Ahab thus was a "murderer" and deserved to die.—1 Ki. 21:1-10; 2 Ki. 6:32; Lev. 24:17.

But what about war? Were Israel's wars in violation of God's command that is fittingly rendered, "You must not murder"?

No, they were not. The fact is that the Bible never uses the term *ratsahh* (murder) regarding any of those wars. When the Israelites warred at God's command, they were not acting illegally. They were authorized by and were being directed by the Supreme Lawgiver. (Isa. 33:22; Ps. 19:7) These wars were not wars for limitless territorial conquest, like so many of the national wars in recent times. They were not wars motivated by economic greed. Nor were they wars that violated legally arranged peace treaties or non-aggression pacts, as have some wars in modern history.

Absolutely no nation on earth today is composed entirely of persons worshipping Jehovah, miraculously directed by him through prophets and having a Divine grant to possess a certain portion of the earth. But all of that was the case with ancient Israel. Jehovah had noted that the inhabitants of Canaan were steeped in iniquity, being morally depraved and deserving of execution. (Gen. 15:13-21; Lev. 18:24, 25) As the owner of the entire earth, God determined to give the land to the

nation of Israel. And, under the direction of leaders he specially chose, God used Israel to carry out his judgment against the Canaanites.—Deut. 9:4, 5; 12:31; Josh. 10:40.

Hence, in executing Jehovah's legal and morally upright judgments, or when defending their God-provided land, the Israelites were not guilty of violating the command, "You must not murder."

What about Christians? Since the Sixth Commandment merely restated what God had said earlier through Noah to the whole human family, we are still obliged to avoid murdering. In fact, the closing chapters of the Bible warn us that unrepentant murderers will experience eternal destruction in the "second death." (Rev. 21:8; 22:15) How important it thus is to avoid sharing in taking human lives without God's specifically stated authorization. Consistent with this, Isaiah 2:3, 4 prophetically describes God's true worshipers, saying: "And many peoples will certainly go and say: 'Come, you people, and let us go up to the mountain of Jehovah, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will instruct us about his ways, . . . ' And they will have to beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning shears. . . . Neither will they learn war anymore."

Furthermore, Christians are alerted to the fact that murders issue from a bad heart. (Matt. 5:21-26; 15:19) If a person allowed hatred for a fellow Christian to develop in his heart, he would as much as be a manslayer or a murderer, something that we must avoid.—1 John 3:15.

So the rendering "Thou shalt not *kill*" does not truly convey the real flavor of the Sixth Commandment. It is more properly translated "You must not murder." Appreciating this aids us to see that Israel's righteous wars did not violate that command. And we can better sense its significance as to our conduct and attitude toward taking human life.



Watching the World

Huge New Debt Load

◆ The period from 1968 to 1974 has been called "the debt economy" in the United States. During that time the "tower" of debt of all kinds (government, corporate and individual) rose to a record \$2.5 trillion (thousand billion). "The tower escaped toppling only by the thinnest margins," relates *Business Week*. Since then some have felt that the past few years of "prosperity" put an end to excessive borrowing, averting the danger of widespread financial collapse. "Nothing could be further from the truth," *Business Week* said, adding: "Since late 1975 the US [United States] has created a new debt economy, a credit explosion so wild and so eccentric that it dwarfs even the borrowing binge of the early 1970s." The debt load has now reached a staggering \$4 trillion, causing great apprehension in financial circles. An economist pointed out: "The only time that debt will go down is when the economy crashes, a recession or a depression."

Over 4,000,000,000

◆ The human population of the earth reached 4,200,000,000 during 1977, according to a United Nations estimate. The current rate of increase is 1.9 percent, slightly lower than the 2-percent rate from 1963 to 1972, but high enough to

double the population in about 35 or 40 years. The lowest UN projection forecasts a total of nearly 6,000,000,000 people by the year 2000. But what makes the low estimates unlikely is that young people under 15 years of age make up a large part of many countries, over 40 percent in some, and they are just now entering the childbearing years.

Wave Power

◆ With a coastline of about 4,500 miles (7,200 kilometers), the British government is studying ways to use the ocean to provide energy when coal and oil run out. Each day waves sweep in from the North Atlantic onto the beaches and cliffs of northwest Scotland and southwest England. Waves from the North Sea come into the east coast of Britain. These waves generate huge amounts of energy. It is felt that a 600-mile (965-kilometer) stretch of 'energy machines' on the coast could provide half of Britain's present electricity requirements. One idea is to have large rafts linked together, moving up and down on the waves. The motion would drive hydraulic rams, which, in turn, would drive electrical alternators. Seabed cables would then take the electricity inland. In Japan there is already an experimental working model of

a similar type producing electricity.

"Too Feeble"

◆ "World food production is presently too feeble when compared with the population increase," stated Arturo Tanco, chairman of the World Food Council during a conference in Dakar, Senegal. As an example, he cited African food production, which increased only a little over 1 percent from 1970 to 1978, while the population there increased over 2 percent in the same period. Tanco emphasized that "if nothing is done, third world country food imports could reach 120 million metric tons in 1990."

Rights Meeting in Greece

◆ A two-day international congress on human rights was held in Athens this autumn. What is novel about this? The Athens *Daily Post* says: "It is the first time such a congress has been in Greece." Formerly Greece had been the target of criticism by other nations for violating human rights, violations such as imposing repeated prison sentences on Jehovah's Witnesses for their military neutrality. However, legislation has been passed to eliminate this gross violation of human rights, although reports say that in some instances local officials had not complied.

Girl Bites Cobra

◆ In New Delhi, India, the magazine *Caravan* told of an unusual encounter between a two-year-old girl and a deadly cobra. While playing in the courtyard of her house she spotted the snake and innocently tried to put it in her mouth. When the cobra moved, the child bit down hard on the snake. The panic-stricken parents wrested the snake from her grip and rushed her to a hospital. She was found to be "hale and hearty," but the snake had been bitten to death.

Dental "Epidemic"

◆ Because "every man, woman and child in Britain" is affected by dental diseases, this should be termed "the last epidemic," declared Dr. Aubrey Sheiham of the Department of Community Dental Health of London Hospital. The incidence of cavities is so severe, said Sheiham, "that 97 per cent of 15 year olds have had one third of their teeth affected, the figure rising in adults to over half their teeth." Another alarming statistic: after periodontal disease takes its toll, four out of 10 adults will have false teeth. The doctor blames the dramatic increase in sugar consumption as the main culprit, from over four pounds per person annually in 1844 to over 120 pounds per person in recent times. Poor oral hygiene was also given as a major factor.

Garlic Capital

◆ The tiny village of Arleux, north of Paris, France, claims to be the garlic capital of the world, having about 3,000 garlic growers. According to Arleux's mayor, the town produced more than 2,000,000 pounds (907,200 kilograms) of garlic last year. That cares for France's domestic needs and allows some to be exported. Asked about the best way to get the scent of garlic off one's breath, the mayor said that one method was to chew parsley after a meal. A mouthwash or chewing gum also helps. However, the mayor hastened to point out that garlic fumes do not cling to the mouth or teeth but are mainly exhaled by the lungs.

Concorde Route "Booming"

◆ British Airways reports that flights of the supersonic Concorde between the United States and Britain are "booming." More than 100,000 passengers have flown this route since it began operating about two and a half years ago. Now there are 26 weekly flights be-

tween Britain and the United States, three two-way trips between London and Washington and 10 each way between London and New York. The Washington flights run at 65 percent of capacity, and the New York flights at 73 percent. Westbound service is often over 80 percent. Passengers include more elderly and infirm people than usual, people who would normally hesitate to leave home on flights that took longer.

Pig Squeals Hazardous?

◆ Research in Scotland is said to have shown that pigs are so noisy while being fed that a farmer may have to wear earmuffs to prevent hearing damage. At Aberdeen, the Scottish Farms Building Investigation Unit found that the noise of pigs before and during feeding times often exceeds tolerable limits. The researchers concluded that if the task of feeding pigs takes longer than four minutes, the worker should wear earmuffs. However, in Canada the Alberta department of labor has disputed the four-minute time. It says that only if the feeding time is an hour or more should stockmen wear hearing protectors.

"Litter Louts"

◆ So much rubbish is dumped on Britain's highways, especially during holiday seasons, that it has become a hazard for drivers. Authorities describe the rubbish dumpers as "litter louts" and "potential killers." The litter includes empty tin cans, old suitcases, used car parts, beer crates, discarded refrigerators, cookers and washing machines, as well as old furniture. The annual weight of this rubbish is measured in the tens of thousands of tons. Also mentioned is a little-known cause of accidents: when motorists discard food from the windows of their passing cars, flocks of birds swoop down to eat. This

has caused some drivers to swerve suddenly when the birds flew into their wind-screens.

Hungry Children

◆ In Thailand, the Bangkok Post noted that malnutrition is affecting over 60 percent of the preschool-age children in that land. According to Dr. Aree Wanyasewi of the Nutrition Research Institute of Mahidol University, out of a total of 7,000,000 children in this age group 4.2 million are suffering from malnutrition. In one recent year the death toll of children under the age of one was 54,990, of which 13,705 (25 percent) were victims of malnutrition, Dr. Aree said.

Tokyo's Deficit Grows

◆ In 1977 the city of Tokyo was shown to be on the verge of bankruptcy because of its registering persistent and huge budget deficits. These deficits are continuing, so that an official study estimates that by 1985 Tokyo's deficit will be about 1.2 trillion yen (about \$6.5 billion, U.S.). An official admitted "that there was no means under existing local and municipal tax and bond issuance regulations by which Tokyo can maintain solvency in the coming years." Thus many of the world's largest cities continue to be beset with deepening financial woes.

Atoms and Aging

◆ An international symposium on aging held in Kyoto, Japan, was told that the aging process speeds up for persons exposed to heavy atomic radiation. Previously it had been known that experimental animals exposed to radiation had shown a speedup in their aging process. Now it has been confirmed that humans do the same. The results were noted in detailed information recently made available from a study of atomic bomb victims in Hiroshima.

Index to Volume 59 of Awake!

ANIMAL AND PLANT LIFE

Amazing Brine Shrimp, 12/8
Animal Lovers, Beware! 5/22
"Anthills" That Are Not, 12/22
Birds in Flight, 10/8
Catching Sharks, 7/8
Coffee—Yesterday and Today, 3/8
"Daisy with Kick of Mule," 11/22
Forest Fire—Friend or Foe? 9/8
How Animals Are Trained, 8/8
Life on Earth—Design or Coincidence? 4/8
"Little Man Who Changes Color," 10/22
Making a Bottle Garden, 2/22
Miracle of Bird Flight, 1/22
Papaya—Melon on a Tree, 8/8
Playful Otter, 2/22
Remarkable Record, 8/8
"Silent Agents" at Work, 3/8
They Call Me "Candlefish," 11/22
True Monarch of the Air, 12/22
Unique Wildlife in Jeopardy, 6/8

ECONOMICS AND EMPLOYMENT

Finding a Job, 5/22
Starting a Business, 8/8
What Makes a Good Secretary? 4/22

HEALTH AND MEDICINE

Blood Transfusions, 9/8
Coping with Hypoglycemia, 7/22
Doctor's Appraisal of Transfusion Risks, 8/8
Fight Against Breast Cancer, 6/22
I Learned to Treasure My Eyesight, 9/8
I See with Sound, 2/8
Life Without Pain, 1/8
Mercy Killing, 3/8
Versatile Vegetation, 7/22

HUMAN RELATIONS

Are You Interested in People? 7/22
Baby's Need for Closeness, 7/22
Coping with a Burst of Anger, 9/8
Courtesy Pays, 9/8
Does Your "Yes" Mean Yes? 2/22
Do Others Do Your Thinking? 8/22
Do You Go 'the Extra Mile'? 2/8
Families in Crisis, 6/22
Getting Acquainted with Our Foreign Neighbors, 6/8
Hospitality in Africa, 5/22
"I Hate Divorce," 10/22
Listening to Gossip, 11/8
Loneliness Takes a Toll, 1/22
Marriage—Can It Survive? 10/22
Son Helped Correct My Values, 8/8

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Argentina: Champion of Freedom—or of Intolerance? 9/22
Biologist Researches Bible, 6/8
Comfort in Right Place, 6/22
Decision That Saved Life, 11/22
Does Danish Law Conflict with Freedom of Conscience? 1/22
Education That Encourages Success, 11/8
Faith That Is Victorious in Modern Times, 11/22
Greatest Privilege in Giving, 12/22
Greece Changes Law on Conscientious Objectors, 2/22
Honduran Determination, 3/22
I Cleaned Up My Life—Why? 12/8
International Unity—Montreal, 6/8
"Ironing" Out the Truth, 8/8
Misrepresentations Advertise Truth, 12/8
My Career as Ballroom Dancer, 3/8
Our Faith-testing Tragedy, 4/8

AWAKE! — DECEMBER 22, 1978

Recording Artist Finds Something Far Better, 5/8
Remembering Her Creator, 5/8
Respect for Marriage, 9/22
Return to Bible, 9/22
"Sound" Diplomacy in Colombia, 1/8
They Won't Forget Oriental Tour, 12/22
Those Sent Forth, 5/8

LANDS AND PEOPLES

Ancient Peruvian Past, 8/8
Brazil Opts for Divorce, 9/22
Breath-taking Railway, 5/22
Bushman Paintings, 7/8
Climbing Egypt's Past, 3/22
Come to the "Land of Fire," 7/22
Could You Learn Japanese? 3/8
Crossing the Nullarbor, 3/22
Crossing the Swiss Alps, 6/22
Education in Africa, 2/22
"Harmattan," 10/8
Larnaca's Salt Lake, Shrine, 5/8
Let's Visit a Salt Mine, 2/22
Merchants on Wheels, 12/8
Minimarkets of Philippines, 3/22
Music Made in Japan, 4/8
North Sea Oil, 3/8
Oil Pipeline for Peru, 5/8
See London, 7/8
Survival in Brazil's Drylands, 6/8
Sydney's Home for the Arts, 11/8
What France Offers Visitors, 7/22
Will You Visit Greece? 6/22

MISCELLANEOUS

American Indian Jewelry, 10/22
Bloodbath in Kolwezi, 8/22
"Cooperative Education," 5/8
"Drownproofing," 4/8
Exploring British Museum, 6/22
Factory-built Houses, 11/8
How Do You Manage Affairs? 3/22
I Fly on the Concorde, 1/22
Imitating the Way of Birds, 8/22
Jade—Stone of Kings, 1/22
Just Spray It On? 7/8
Knitting as a Lifetime Hobby, 5/8
Let's Plan a Trip, 5/22
More than Floor Coverings, 2/8
Music from Singing Bamboos, 2/22
Music with String and Bow, 9/8
"No End to Making Books," 1/22
Old Enough to Drive? 11/22
Opal—Rainbow in Your Hand, 3/8
Origin of Playing Cards, 8/22
Plan for Your Travel Abroad, 11/8
Plying Ocean Highways, 3/22
Ride on "Bullet" Train, 7/8
School Fatigue, 1/8
Searching for Roots, 11/22
Soft Ride—Now Possible, 11/8
Speaking Wires of the Deep, 8/22
Supersonic Travel, 1/22
Survival at Sea! 5/22
Tragedy at Sea, 1/8
Typesetting Speeds Up, 1/22
What Do You Mean by "Shakes," "Shingles" and "Froes"? 12/8
What Should Your Child Read? 3/22
What Time Is It? 7/8
Where Did It Originate? 6/22
Why Fasten Your Seat Belt? 6/8
Wise Use of Vacationlands, 9/8
World's Major Sports Event, 6/8

RELIGION

Are You Too Busy? 5/22
Book That Can Put Bread on Your Table, 10/8
Catechism Crisis, 9/8
Did My Baby Go to Limbo? 4/22
"Good News," 7/8
—Who Wants It?
—A Man Who Found It

"Happy God"—Different! 5/22
How to Pray and Be Heard, 5/22
Louvre with Bible in Hand, 7/22
Now Opening to Blacks, 12/8
Permanent Cure for Blindness, 2/8
Riches within Your Reach, 6/8
Security—Can You Obtain It? 12/8
Spiritistic Religion, 11/8
"Uniting Church in Australia," 5/8
Values to Live By, 8/8
What Is Behind Superstitions? 11/8
What Is Behind the Custom? 3/8
What Is Your View of Dead? 11/8
Will They Live Again? 3/8
Years of Our Life, 4/22

SCIENCE

Bacteria—Helpful or Harmful? 5/8
Computer—Tool or Tyrant? 7/22
Creation Goes to College, 8/22
Energy, 2/8
—Francis Search
—Germany's Nuclear Dilemma
—"Solar House" One Solution?
Exploring Heavens at Home, 2/22
Genetic Engineering, 12/8
Gold out of Rocks, 4/8
Have You Seen a Fulgurite? 8/22
How All Men Came from One Man, 9/22
Magnetism—Powerful Servant, 1/8
Moon Appears Upside-down, 6/22
Sound Amplification, 3/22
Traffic Laws of Planets, 6/22
Using Heat from the Earth, 1/8
What About Aerosol Sprays? 2/8
What Is It Like Down There? 1/8
When Metals Fall, 8/8
Where Does Garbage Go? 2/22

WATCHING THE WORLD

(This section appears in each issue)

WHAT IS THE BIBLE'S VIEW?

Can Blasphemy Be Forgiven? 2/8
Can Law Be 'Handled Lawfully'? 6/22
Can You Change Personality? 5/8
Christian Serve on Jury? 12/8
Defense for Judas Iscariot? 9/22
Did God Mean "Thou Shalt Not Kill"? 12/22
Do We Suffer for Our Sins? 11/8
'Eye Has Not Seen'—What? 7/8
Have Miraculous Gifts Ceased? 1/22
How Should Christians View Entertainment? 4/22
Is "Eros" Approved? 8/8
Is Showing Favoritism a Sin? 7/22
"Once Saved, Always Saved"? 4/8
"One Jehovah"—In What Sense? 11/22
Pray for All Men? 2/22
"Speaking in Tongues," 3/8
Tests of Faith, 3/22
What Sabbath Should You Keep? 6/8
Who Is 'the Alpha and Omega'? 8/22
Why Did Jesus Christ Call Himself the "Amen"? 9/8
Why Not Smoke? 1/8
Woman's Role in Congregation, 5/22

WORLD AFFAIRS AND CONDITIONS

Peace, 12/22
—What World Wars Did to My Family
—Desire for Peace, But Will Nations Disarm?
—True Peace—Will It Ever Come?
World's Hungry Millions, 2/8
Would There Be As Many Wars? 12/8

