

January 1, 1984

The Watchtower

Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom



Your Future
—What Does Bible
Prophecy Say?

The Watchtower®

Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom

January 1, 1984
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THE PURPOSE OF "THE WATCHTOWER" is to exalt Jehovah God as the Sovereign of the universe. It keeps watch on world events as they fulfill Bible prophecy. It comforts all peoples with the good news that God's Kingdom will soon destroy those who oppress their fellowmen and that it will turn the earth into a Paradise. It encourages faith in the now-reigning King, Jesus Christ, whose shed blood opens the way for mankind to gain eternal life. "The Watchtower," published by Jehovah's Witnesses continuously since 1879, is nonpolitical. It adheres to the Bible as its authority.

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February 5: Watchmen, Raise Your Voice! Page 14. Songs to Be Used: 50, 83.
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How Real Are Your Prospects for the Future?

YOUNG or old, rich or poor, sick or healthy, you have a future, for the word "future" means "time that is to come." And everyone reaches the future at the same rate of 60 minutes an hour. What that future will bring for you, however, depends on how you view it and plan for it.

Your future consists of more than just the time that remains of your present life. It also includes how you use that time, the plans you have made, the goals you have set. As one noted inventor observed: "We should all be concerned about the future because we will have to spend the rest of our lives there."

How Do You View the Future?

Why is it that so *many* give so *little* thought to the future? There are a number of reasons for this. Here are some of them:

- The anxiety and struggle of everyday life stifles thoughts of the future.

- The "now generation" philosophy promotes the view, 'live for the moment and the future will take care of itself.'

- Those pursuing the 'whatever will be, will be' way of life believe destiny alone shapes the future.

- The 'what's the use' feeling results in despair and deters setting goals for the future.

But how about those who do plan for the future? Their plans may lack objectivity and their future may, therefore, become disappointing. How so? If plans

are based solely on human thinking and effort for fulfillment, they could lead to a future different from what is expected. A wise ancient writer made this observation about human thinking: "I well know, O Jehovah, that to earthling man his way does not belong. It does not belong to man who is walking even to direct his step."—Jeremiah 10:23.

If man has difficulty directing his own step toward the future, how can he successfully direct others? He cannot, because the two big things that shape human thought are flawed. One is inherited traits; the other, the environment. And the philosophy of the political, religious, economic and social community is constantly squeezing people into its mold. The result? Deflection of effort away from a realistic future.—Romans 5:12; 1 John 5:19.

For example, this effort may include preparing for our children's education, assuming that this will guarantee them a more promising future. Yet there are university graduates who are unemployed. *Or* it may be working extremely hard at present so as to be financially secure in the future. But inflation has stripped away financial holdings. *Or* it may be looking forward to retirement with a home and an income that will give material independence and the ability to live out the golden years in comfort. Yet death or some other disaster has robbed many of that hope.

Or it may be believing that the future will somehow become better tomorrow. But that "tomorrow" never comes.

A Balanced Approach to Your Future

'How can I have a realistic and meaningful future?' you wonder. The answer may lie in what Nobel prize winner John Galsworthy wrote: "If you do not think about the future, you cannot have one." Give serious thought first to what the future could bring. Next think about what you would like to *be* and *do* in that future. Then take the needed action to direct your steps toward that goal.

When you meditate about the future, include the Bible in your reasoning because it can bring into view future

events you may not realize are before you. Foretelling future happenings accurately is one of the outstanding features of the Bible. This is possible because its Author, Jehovah, is a God of prophecy. He states: "From the beginning I foretold the future, and predicted beforehand what is to be." (Isaiah 46:10, *The Jerusalem Bible*) Therefore, learning about God's purposes regarding the future and how they will affect us is the most realistic course to follow, is it not? Our expectations for the future could be mere dreams if consideration of divine prophecy is missing from our plans. What does God predict that we should know? Can we alter our future plans to fit in agreeably with God's prophecies?

Can Your Future Be Changed?

SUPPOSE you are planning for a family picnic but find out that the weather forecast calls for a severe thunderstorm. Would you not change your plans? There is nothing you can do to control the weather, but you do not have to get drenched. If alternative steps are taken, the family can have a pleasant time elsewhere despite the storm.

The situation is similar with respect to your future and Bible prophecy. In fact, the future can be seen through Bible prophecy. And although we humans cannot change prophetic events

involving the earth, we can individually alter our plans, thereby ensuring an improved future amid those events.

Our future is inseparably linked with Bible prophecy. If we seriously consider the reliability of Bible prophecy and act accordingly, our future can be changed for the better. For example, Jehovah God promises a peaceful earth free from wickedness. And he desires life on that earth to be *our* future. The Bible says: "Watch the blameless one . . . for the future of that man will be peaceful. But . . . the future of wicked people will indeed be cut off." (Psalm



"He is making wars to cease to the extremity of the earth."
—Psalm 46:9

prophecy contains the very information they are seeking?

Reliability of Bible Prophecy

Man lacks complete control of future situations and must react to them as they de-

velop. God is different. His predictions are precise for two reasons. First, as the Creator, Jehovah knows humans and he can accurately foretell where human thought and action will lead. (Deuteronomy 31:21; Isaiah 46:9, 10) Second, God can shape events *before* they happen. In both ways his purpose is *always* accomplished and his prophetic word is *always* stamped as true.

What Is Prophecy?

Prophecy means an "inspired message; speech by divine influence." According to Vine's *Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, Bible prophecy is: "The speaking forth of the mind and the counsel of God," the "declaration of that which cannot be known by natural means." Included, also, is the "foretelling of that which is to come"—history written in advance. And it is this latter meaning—predicting the future—that now concerns us. Let us look more closely at this facet of prophecy.

People have always had an interest in the future. Yet many will ignore the only accurate source of prophecy—the Bible. Throughout the ages, millions have attempted to peer into the future by consulting astrologers, clairvoyants, seers and other prognosticators, and they have put their faith in such predictors of the future. But why do so many trust such human sources while dismissing the possibility that Bible

Through the prophet Isaiah, Jehovah points out his ability to foretell and regulate the future as compared with the failure of false prophets to do so. He states: "I am the One that makes diviners themselves act crazily; . . . the One making the word of his servant come true, and the One that carries out completely the counsel of his own messengers."—Isaiah 44:25, 26.

Because God 'makes the word of his servant come true,' the Scriptures have accurately foretold the development of world powers, along with the events leading up to their establishment. An outstanding example of this is found in chapter 2 of the Bible book of Daniel. Here King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon is extremely disturbed by a dream he

could not remember. He is frustrated. Not one of his Chaldean prophets can recount the dream, let alone interpret its meaning. They are totally baffled. Daniel, as the prophet of Jehovah, reveals both the dream and its meaning as the king listens in astonishment. Says Daniel:

“Your Majesty, there is no wizard, magician, fortuneteller, or astrologer who can tell you that. But there is a God in heaven, who reveals mysteries. He has informed Your Majesty what will happen in the future.”
—Daniel 2:27, 28, *Today's English Version*.

Daniel next pinpoints the future rise and fall of powerful nations. The man-like image seen in the king's dream represents a succession of world kingdoms, including Babylon (the gold head), Medo-Persia (the silver breasts and arms), Greece (the copper belly and thighs), Rome (the iron legs), followed by the Anglo-American World Power with today's radical popular movements within its realm and sphere of influence (the iron-clay feet). Finally, human rule is replaced by divine rule as the complete image is pulverized by God's heavenly Kingdom (stone).
—Daniel 2:36-45; see also Daniel 8:19-25.

To illustrate the detailed accuracy of Bible prophecy further, consider this example: Let us suppose that a prominent per-

“As regards the wicked, they will be cut off.”
“The righteous one will sprout.”
—Proverbs 2:22;
Psalm 72:7



son goes on public record today and predicts events 200 years ahead, for the year 2184. The prophecy contains:

■ A great military battle: The nations involved have yet to become rival world powers, and the results will change history.

■ The very strategy used: A tremendous engineering feat altering the course of a mighty river.

■ The name of the conqueror: His name is given about 200 years before the conquest and some 130 years before his birth.

■ The outcome: The geographic location and ultimate destiny of the loser.

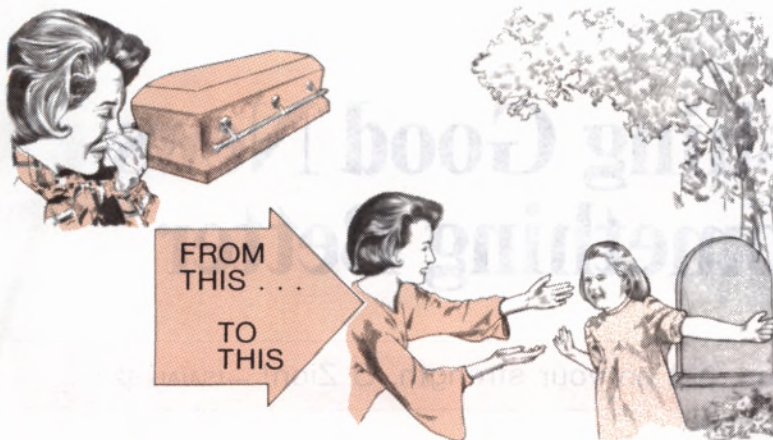
If all these predictions came true, would it not at least cause people to consider other things this person had said about the future?

What we have just described actually took place in detail in connection with the overthrow of Babylon by the Medes and the Persians. Some 200 years before this event took place, the Bible prophet Isaiah predicted:

■ A great military battle: between Medo-Persia and Babylon.—Isaiah 13:17, 19.

■ The very strategy used: Dry up a moat-like river defense; enter a fortified city through open gates.—Isaiah 44:27-45:2.





"The Sovereign Lord Jehovah will certainly wipe the tears from all faces."
—Isaiah 25:8

Well, it is through Bible prophecies of the past that we can understand the present. And understanding why world conditions are the way they are is a big step forward in coping with them.

■ The name of the conqueror: Cyrus of Persia.—Isaiah 45:1.

■ The outcome: Babylon in time to become a total desolation.—Isaiah 13:17-22.

Since all these predictions came true, will you consider other Bible prophecies to be reliable too?

There are many other Bible prophecies that have been fulfilled in detail.* For example, Jesus had to fulfill scores of prophecies to qualify as the Messiah—and he did fulfill them. The book *Archaeology and Bible History*, by Professor J. P. Free, says this about Jesus Christ: "The chances of all these prophecies being fulfilled in one man are so overwhelmingly remote that it is strikingly demonstrated that they could in no wise be the shrewd guesses of mere men." Certainly, then, in connection with Jesus the Messiah, Jehovah did foretell the future. But, can Bible prophecy help us right now?

Prophecy and the Present

Besides helping us to understand the future, Bible prophecy helps us to cope with the present. How so?

* For additional information see *Is the Bible Really the Word of God?* published by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.

Nineteen hundred years ago, the Bible foretold events and world conditions that have been witnessed in this century. The generation of the year 1914 has been experiencing this fulfillment in such events as global war, numerous earthquakes, widespread famines, epidemics of disease, increasing lawlessness and great fear. (Luke 21:10, 11) In addition, the loss of "natural affection" and the presence of "lovers of pleasures rather than lovers of God" promote increases in sexual immorality, venereal diseases, abortions and broken marriages.—2 Timothy 3:1-5.

The Bible not only predicts these things for our day but also gives the solution—Jehovah's Kingdom.

Bible prophecy, like a beacon, can guide us to a better future if we are attentive to its signal. The apostle Peter advised: "We have the prophetic word made more sure; and you are doing well in paying attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dark place." (2 Peter 1:19) Will you give Bible prophecy closer consideration? Jehovah's Witnesses are willing to help. If you 'pay attention' to Bible prophecy, your future can be one with everlasting benefits.

Publishing Good News of Something Better

"Wake up, wake up, put on your strength, O Zion!"—ISAIAH 52:1.

THIS clarion call sounded forth early in our 20th century. And why? Because the time had come to publish good news of better things for mankind. Do we read this good news in the world's newspapers? No, for the media prefer to report worldly sensationalism or to publicize the escalation of vice and immorality. However, they can point to no solution. Today, many fear destruction in a blazing holocaust, triggered by the exploding of doomsday nuclear devices of man's own making. But Someone far wiser than mortal man informs us that when the end of the world comes it will be from a far different Source. It will be by God's own execution of judgment on wicked men and wicked nations. (Psalm 110:5, 6) This news Source tells also of a marvelous millennium of reconstruction to follow, when our earth, and mankind upon it, will be brought to a state of glorious perfection. That, truly, is *good news*!—Revelation 20:6; Psalm 72:16, 18, 19; Romans 8:21.

1. (a) In what way have the world's news media failed? (b) What does the wisest news Source make known?

² 'Wake up, wake up!' cries Isaiah. Why this urgency? Well, striking fulfillments of Bible prophecy from the year 1914 onward show that God's Kingdom by Christ Jesus, "a city of the living God, heavenly Jerusalem," is now ruling in the heavens. The representatives on earth of Zion, God's heavenly organization, must awaken to zealous activity. They must publish this good news in the strength that God gives to those obeying him as ruler.—Hebrews 12:22; Acts 5:32.

³ Isaiah continues: "Put on your beautiful garments, O Jerusalem, the holy city! For no more will there come again into you the uncircumcised and unclean one. Shake yourself free from the dust, rise up, take a seat, O Jerusalem. Loosen for yourself the bands on your neck, O captive daughter of Zion."—Isaiah 52:1, 2.

⁴ This prophecy has had a thrilling 20th-century fulfillment! During the Great War of 1914-18, anointed Chris-

2. What urgent cry now goes forth, and how must it be answered?

3. Whom does Isaiah address, and with what invitation?

4. How has the prophecy had 20th-century fulfillment?

tians became captives spiritually, and some, including officers of the Watch Tower Society, were thrown into literal jails. But in 1919 there came release. As representing the heavenly Zion, these Christians then put on "garments" that are beautiful from God's standpoint—their identification as servants of the Sovereign Lord of the universe. They separated themselves from moral and spiritual uncleanness.—Compare 2 Corinthians 6:17, where the apostle Paul quotes from Isaiah 52:11.

⁵ Thus God's own people got completely free from false religious teachings and practices. Copying the example that Jesus set while on earth, they also declared themselves to be "no part of this world," including its corrupt politics and escalating violence. (John 18:36; Revelation 18:2, 4) But in rising from their downtrodden state to an approved standing before God, they had to follow in their Master's steps in an even more positive way, as we shall now see.—1 Peter 2:21.

"Your God Has Become King!"

⁶ Listen closely to the prophet's further words: "How comely upon the mountains are the feet of the one bringing good news, the one publishing peace, the one bringing good news of something better, the one publishing salvation, the one saying to Zion: 'Your God has become king!'" (Isaiah 52:7) This Messenger of peace is none other than the King Jesus Christ. While on earth he was anointed with God's spirit to declare good news to poor, crushed ones. But now, with the fulfilling of "the appointed times of the nations"

5. How have God's people heeded Isaiah's call and Jesus' example?

6. Whose "feet" now bring good news, and for what purpose does he now arrive?

in 1914, he "arrives in his glory, and all the angels with him," to take up his kingship and to judge the nations and people of earth.—Luke 4:18; 21:24; Matthew 25:31, 32.

⁷ Envision this Messenger as, figuratively, he leaps from mountain to mountain, eager to publish good news of better things to those seeking after God. How comely his "feet"! They are swift in carrying him on his errand of peace. Zealously, he proclaims salvation to the once-captive "daughter of Zion," the released remnant of spiritual Israel's 144,000, and after this to an unnumbered 'great crowd out of all nations.'—Revelation 7:4, 9, 10.

⁸ The publishing of peace and good news focuses on the stirring proclamation: "Your God has become king!" Who is this God, and how does he become King? He is the God whose name is despised and seldom mentioned among the religions of Christendom, the Sovereign Lord JEHOVAH. He is the One who declares in the preceding verses of Isaiah 52: "Constantly, all day long, my name was being treated with disrespect. For that reason my people will know my name." His matchless name must now be vindicated because his hour for judging the nations has arrived. These, too, must come to fear him as "King of the nations."—Jeremiah 10:7; Revelation 14:7.

⁹ This great King is the Lord concerning whom loud voices in heaven have been saying with regard to events from and after 1914: "The kingdom of the world did become the kingdom of

7. What news does the Messenger bring?

8. What stirring proclamation is now made, and why?

9. (a) What are the relative positions of "our Lord" and "his Christ"? (b) For what may all praises of God be thankful?

our Lord and of his Christ, and he will rule as king forever and ever." To this, other worshipers of God add words of heartfelt praise: "We thank you, Jehovah God, the Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and begun ruling as king. But the nations became wrathful, and your own wrath came." In this day of the Kingdom, Christ Jesus rules as Consort-King with his Father, the Lord Jehovah, whose righteous judgment he renders.—Revelation 11:15, 17, 18; 12:10; John 5:30.

¹⁰ This Messenger-King is not alone in publishing peace. The apostle Paul explains why, quoting Joel 2:32 as follows: "Everyone who calls on the name of Jehovah will be saved." Then Paul asks a series of questions and climaxes these with a reference to Isaiah 52:7, saying: "How will they call on him in whom they have not put faith? How, in turn, will they put faith in him of whom they have not heard? How, in turn, will they hear without someone to preach? How, in turn, will they preach unless they have been sent forth? Just as it is written: 'How comely are the

10. In quoting Joel 2:32 and Isaiah 52:7, what did Paul indicate?

feet of those who declare good news of good things!"—Romans 10:13-15.

¹¹ So others, too, have 'comely feet.' These ones have heeded the good news proclaimed by God's Messenger. In turn, they also have become publishers of good news—an army of Kingdom preachers. Today they number some two and a half million, being made up of men, women and children out of all nations of mankind! How privileged you are if you are one of these, preaching "good news of something better"! And precious are your literal feet if they regularly carry you from house to house as you publish salvation! For in this way you are having a part in the fulfillment of Psalm 19:4, which Paul quotes at Romans 10:18, saying: "Into all the earth their sound went out, and to the extremities of the inhabited earth their utterances."—See also Psalm 99:1-3; 148:12, 13.

God's Organization in Action!

¹² Yes, "your God has become king!" So *now* is the time of all times to exalt the name of the living God, Jehovah, and to magnify him as Sovereign Lord. In the 1920's the remnant of God's anointed servants were most grateful that light concerning God's Kingdom continually "flashed up for the righteous." And a milestone was reached with publication of *The Watchtower* of March 1, 1925. Its leading article, entitled "Birth of the Nation," made plain the prophecies showing that God's promised Kingdom had been born in the heavens in 1914, that the Messianic King had hurled the Devil and his an-

11. How have many today shown that they have 'comely feet'?

12. (a) This is the most important time for what? (b) What outstanding truths were made known in 1925?

In Our Next Issue

- What Has Happened to Honesty?
- Beware of Presumptuousness!
- Christian Modesty—Proof of Wisdom

gels down to the earth, and that there must be war to a finish between God's organization and Satan's organization. —Psalm 97:11; Revelation 12:1-12.

¹³ As this spiritual warfare advanced, those serving with Jehovah's organization were refreshed by continuing flashes of Bible understanding, and their numbers grew until, in 1938, as many as 50,769 reported Kingdom service during an international testimony period. The rapid growth called for better organization, and Jehovah provided that right on time! The two issues of *The Watchtower* for June 1 and 15, 1938, took as their study theme: "Organization." These were followed in July and August by a four-part series on "His War." A truly theocratic arrangement was brought in among Jehovah's Witnesses, and this strengthened them for intensified spiritual warfare. As Isaiah's prophecy, at chapter 60 verses 17 and 22, had indicated, the

13. (a) What progress did God's people make up until 1938? (b) What timely development took place in 1938?

improved condition among God's people would stimulate a speeding up of Jehovah's Kingdom work.

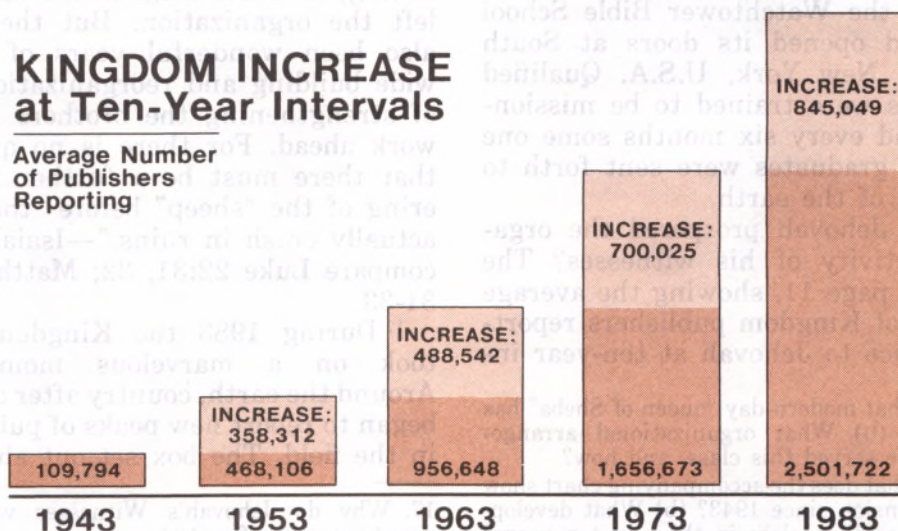
¹⁴ These *Watchtower* articles on "Organization" drew a parallel between Solomon's reign of the 11th century B.C.E. and that of the enthroned Jesus, commencing in 1914 C.E. Solomon started his building program in the fourth year of his reign. It took 7 years to construct the temple, and a further 13 years to complete the king's house. Similarly, the Lord Jesus Christ appears to have carried out a construction work especially related to the restoration of true worship and the building up of the spiritual "house of God" during the period 1918-38. (1 Peter 4:17) The final *Watchtower* on "Organization" concluded with this comment:

"The Scriptures show that, after the twenty years of Solomon's building program as above set out, he engaged in a nation-

14. (a) What in modern times paralleled Solomon's building program? (b) In view of this, what question is asked?

KINGDOM INCREASE at Ten-Year Intervals

Average Number
of Publishers
Reporting



wide building program. (1 Ki. 9:10, 17-23; 2 Chron. 8:1-10) Then came the queen of Sheba 'from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon.' (Matt. 12:42; 1 Ki. 10:1-10; 2 Chron. 9:1-9, 12) This suggests the question: What is in the immediate future for the people of Jehovah on earth? With full confidence we will wait, and we shall see."

Well, what do we see now, some 46 years later?

A Marvelous Expansion!

¹⁵ "From the uttermost parts of the earth" the modern-day "queen of Sheba" class, the Lord's "other sheep," have been coming in their multitudes to listen to the wisdom of the enthroned King, Jesus Christ. He is indeed "something more than Solomon." Through "the faithful and discreet slave"—that group of anointed Christians that the Master has organized and commissioned here on earth—he has been dispensing a banquet of rich spiritual food. (Matthew 12:42; 24:45-47) And even while World War II was raging at its height, this "slave" moved to publish the good news still more extensively. In 1943 the Watchtower Bible School of Gilead opened its doors at South Lansing, New York, U.S.A. Qualified ministers were trained to be missionaries, and every six months some one hundred graduates were sent forth to the ends of the earth.

¹⁶ Has Jehovah prospered the organized activity of his witnesses? The chart on page 11, showing the average number of Kingdom publishers reporting service to Jehovah at ten-year in-

15. (a) What modern-day "queen of Sheba" has appeared? (b) What organizational arrangements have served this class, and how?

16. (a) What does the accompanying chart show as to expansion since 1943? (b) What developments have taken place in the past ten years?

12 THE WATCHTOWER—JANUARY 1, 1984

The following are typical of scores of 1983 year reports received from Watch Tower branches:

- **Canada:** The year has been one of many peaks, including 77,003 publishers, a 13-percent increase over last year's average.
- **Chile:** In August our new all-time peak of publishers was 21,344, a 25-percent increase; we had 70,522 attending the Memorial.
- **El Salvador:** From January to August there has been a series of new publisher peaks, up to 12,008 reporting, a 25-percent increase, and 44,967 attended the Memorial.
- **Ireland:** We climbed to a new peak of 2,215 publishers in August; the 127 baptized is a 17-percent increase.
- **Israel:** Our all-time peak of 297 publishers in April was a 14-percent increase.
- **Philippines:** Following the district conventions of 1982, the number of publishers jumped from 60,000 to over 70,000.
- **Sri Lanka:** We reported five consecutive publisher peaks, with an all-time peak of 764 in May—a 14-percent increase.
- **An African country under ban:** The fine Memorial attendance of 25,430 is about two and a half times the average number of publishers.

tervals since 1943, supplies the answer. The progress over the most recent ten-year period is of especial interest to us now. These were years of testing and sifting, as some disgruntled apostates left the organization. But they have also been wonderful years of worldwide building and reorganization, and of strengthening the brothers for the work ahead. For there is no question that there must be a further ingathering of the "sheep" before "the cities actually crash in ruins."—Isaiah 6:11; compare Luke 22:31, 32; Matthew 25:31-33.

¹⁷ During 1983 the Kingdom work took on a marvelous momentum. Around the earth, country after country began to report new peaks of publishers in the field. The box set out above in-

17. Why do Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide now have cause for joy?

dicates something of the joy the brothers are experiencing as Jehovah gives this increase. There was a tremendous growth during the spring and summer months, so that the world field has now reached a thrilling all-time peak of 2,652,323 publishers—an increase of 174,715 over the 1982 peak—in 205 different lands. We praise Jah for this blessing!—Malachi 3:10; Deuteronomy 28:12, 13.

¹⁸ How heartwarming it has been, also, to see increasing numbers symbolizing their dedication to Jehovah by water baptism! At the “Kingdom Unity” District Conventions of 1983, many new ones were thus brought into Christian unity in God’s organization. A total of 161,896 persons were baptized during 1983, a 17-percent increase over the previous year. May Jehovah grant us good ‘fishing and hunting’ again during 1984! (Jeremiah 16:16) And as we find deserving ones, let us feed them through skillful use of God’s Word, along with those two fine books *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth* and *United in Worship of the Only True God*.—Matthew 10:7, 11.

¹⁹ Most thrilling of all is the report on the Memorial, held on the evening of March 29, 1983, in some 46,235 congregations around the earth. Only 9,292 persons indicated their heavenly hope by partaking of the emblems, showing that the “other sheep” made up the vast majority of the 6,767,707 in attendance—an increase of 514,920 over the 1982 figure. What a grand company of meek persons are show-

18. The report on baptisms should stimulate us to do what?

19. What does the 1983 Memorial report indicate?

ing an interest in Jehovah’s Kingdom purposes!

²⁰ Under inspiration of God’s spirit, King David declared: “But the meek ones themselves will possess the earth, and they will indeed find their exquisite delight in the abundance of peace.” (Psalm 37:11; see also Matthew 5:5.) Let Jehovah’s Witnesses everywhere be diligent in building up meek ones who are coming into association with them, such as Memorial attenders, and also give loving spiritual help to former associates who may have fallen into inactivity. Their lives are precious to Jehovah. (Matthew 18:14) To find salvation through the great tribulation, these must now ‘wash their robes, making them white in the blood of the Lamb,’ and *keep them white*. May the “great crowd” continue to grow in numbers as more and more meek ones awaken to identify themselves as dedicated servants of Jehovah and to share joyfully with his people in ‘publishing good news of something better.’—Revelation 7:9, 14.

20. What attention should we now pay to new associates, as well as inactive persons, and why?

How would you answer?

- ☐ Isaiah 52:1, 2 has had what striking modern-day fulfillment?
- ☐ How does Isaiah 52:5-7 have application to the Kingdom publishers?
- ☐ How did Jehovah prepare his people for future expansion?
- ☐ What evidence is there of Jehovah’s blessing over the decades, and especially during 1983?

Watchmen, Raise Your Voice!

"Listen! Your own watchmen have raised their voice."—ISAIAH 52:8.

WHO are the watchmen here mentioned? Are they the watchmen of Christendom's religions? Well, what are the clergy of Christendom saying today about the Kingdom of God? The following example may help us answer that question.

² An honored "Reverend Doctor" of the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, made the following complaint:

"During the past sixteen years [1963-78] I can recollect only two occasions on which I have heard sermons specifically devoted to the theme of the kingdom of God. . . . I find this silence rather surprising because it is universally agreed by New Testament scholars that the central theme of the gospels and of the teaching of Jesus was the kingdom of God. . . . Why do people not preach about the kingdom of God? I suppose that one obvious answer is simply, 'Because we were not taught how to do it.'"

³ Obviously, clergymen who fail to preach the Kingdom of God have not grasped the real import of the good news. They have not heeded Isaiah's call to awake. They are not able to publish good news of something better, for they know nothing better than the creeds and formalism of worldly religion. They are 'blind watchmen,' of

whom an apt description is given at Isaiah 56:10, 11, *Authorized Version*.

⁴ "We were not taught how to do it." That is the reason the "Reverend Doctor" supplies for not preaching the Kingdom of God. But, happily, there are watchmen who preach the Kingdom of God today, and they are able to do this convincingly, for the reason that they *have been and are being taught*. They are the ones God's prophet refers to when he writes: "Jehovah is a God of judgment. Happy are all those keeping in expectation of him. . . . Your Grand Instructor will no longer hide himself, and your eyes must become eyes seeing your Grand Instructor. And your own ears will hear a word behind you saying: 'This is the way. Walk in it, you people,' in case you people should go to the right or in case you should go to the left."—Isaiah 30:18, 20, 21.

⁵ Jehovah's Witnesses are taught concerning God's Kingdom, not in the theological seminaries of Christendom's sects, but in the Theocratic Ministry School and other weekly meetings in their Kingdom Halls. They are trained

4. (a) How do the watchmen of Isaiah 52:8 contrast with modern-day clergymen? (b) Why should we be thankful to our Grand Instructor?

5. (a) What organizational arrangements has Jehovah made for his people? (b) In what respects, with regard to the Kingdom, do Jehovah's Witnesses today resemble Jesus and his apostles?

1, 2. (a) In connection with Isaiah 52:8, what question arises? (b) What confession does one clergyman make?

3. How do the words of Isaiah 56:10, 11 have an application today?

in preaching the Kingdom effectively from house to house and in conducting Bible studies with teachable people who want to learn about the Kingdom. This instruction comes from Jehovah through his organization, which he addresses, saying: "All your sons will be persons taught by Jehovah, and the peace of your sons will be abundant." Jehovah's Witnesses know what the Kingdom is all about, and that it will bring blessings as yet untold to mankind here on earth. Like Jesus and his apostles they pray for God's Kingdom to come and they zealously preach the Kingdom hope.—Isaiah 54:13; Matthew 4:17; 6:10; 10:7; 12:21; 24:14.

Watchmen, Cry Out!

⁶ In a number of scriptures, God's prophets mention watchmen. In ancient times these kept a constant lookout, ready to sound the warning concerning any enemy intrusion. At Isaiah 21:8 one of these reports: "Upon the watchtower, O Jehovah, I am standing constantly by day, and at my guardpost I am stationed all the nights." Today a watchman class, the anointed "faithful and discreet slave" representing the Lord Jesus Christ here on earth, performs such a service. This watchman observes how events are developing on earth in fulfillment of Bible prophecy, sounds the warning of an impending "great tribulation such as has not occurred since the world's beginning" and publishes "good news of something better." *The Watchtower*, with its worldwide circulation of 10,-200,000 copies each issue, is one of the instruments the watchman uses in

publishing this good news.—Matthew 24:14, 21, 45-47; Isaiah 52:7.

⁷ The watchman "slave" class has much loyal support in publishing the good news. As the previous article indicated, in reporting on Memorial attendance for 1983, the remaining ones of the anointed "slave" on earth now number only a few more than 9,000. They need help in getting the preaching work accomplished effectively. And this help has been forthcoming! Millions of companions are flocking to their side, and these, too, raise their voices along with the "watchmen" described at Isaiah 52:8. In a very real sense, these blend their voices with those of the "watchmen" in heralding the good news.

⁸ Turn to pages 16 and 17 of this magazine and you will see that, on a global scale, Jehovah is blessing these watchmen and their loyal associates. They "have raised their voice" to the extent that a grand increase in publishers is being enjoyed everywhere. This is to be expected now that Christ Jesus rules in his Father's Kingdom, for does not Isaiah 9:6, 7 say of this "Prince of Peace": "Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end"? (AV) As the chart shows, there are sections of the earth, including some with quite large populations, where restrictions on the Kingdom-preaching work are heavy. The Witnesses in these places do what they can with help from Jehovah's spirit. (Zechariah 4:6) Governmental authorities that oppose, and communities that support such, will carry heavy blood-

7. Who serve in support of the "watchmen," and why is their help needed?

8. (a) What does the chart on pages 16 and 17 show as to Kingdom expansion? (b) What is the situation in places where the Kingdom work is restricted?

6. (a) Who make up the watchman class today, and what service do they perform? (b) What warning does the watchman now sound, using what instrument?

Kingdom Expansion

"Into all the earth their sound went out."
—Romans 10:18; Acts 1:8.



North America

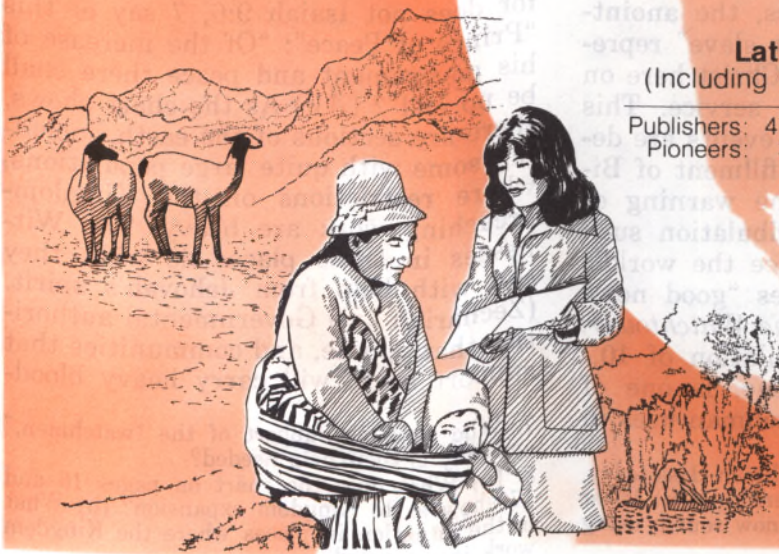
Publishers: 690,979; increase: 6%
Pioneers: 58,381; increase: 16%

Europe

Publishers: 601,918; increase: 5%
Pioneers: 38,978; increase: 17%

Latin America (Including Caribbean Islands)

Publishers: 472,816; increase: 11%
Pioneers: 35,450; increase: 23%



1983 Service Year

This chart shows the increase in monthly average figures worldwide

Asia

Publishers: 122,726; increase: 12%
Pioneers: 34,586; increase: 24%

Pacific Islands

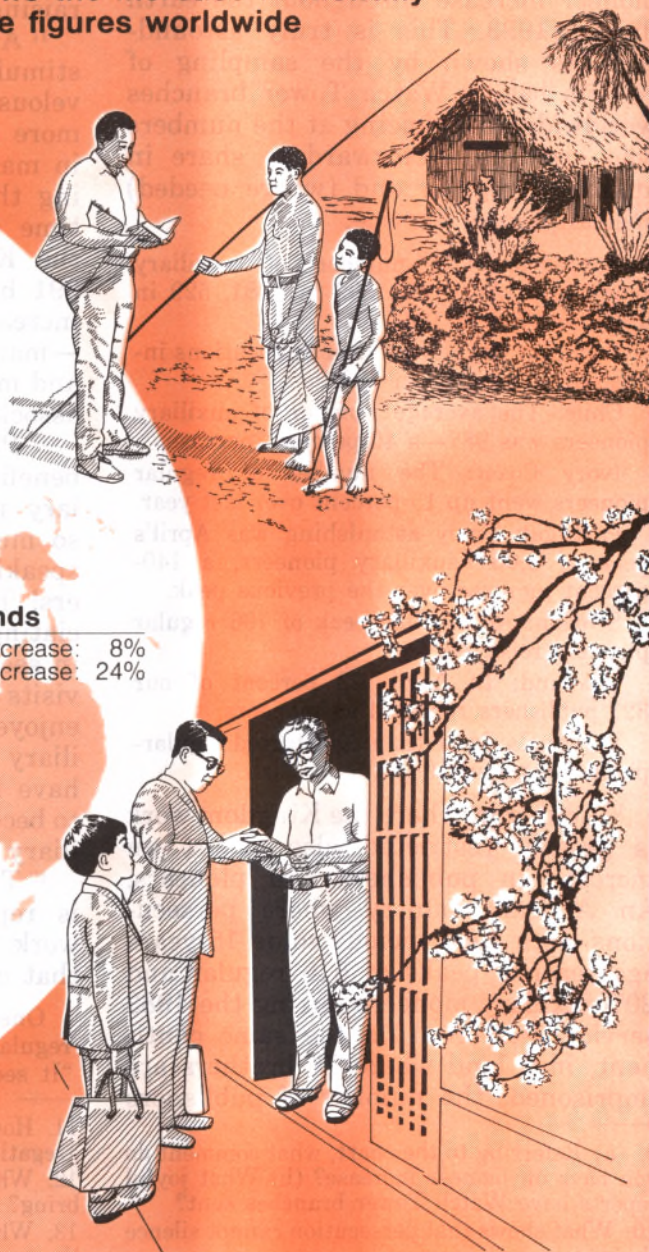
Publishers: 117,816; increase: 8%
Pioneers: 11,386; increase: 24%

Africa

Publishers: 266,375; increase: 6%
Pioneers: 21,690; increase: 17%

Restricted Countries

Publishers: 229,092; increase: 4%
Pioneers: 5,627; increase: 20%



guilt when the great tribulation strikes.
—Compare Ezekiel 3:17-19.

Pioneer Proclaimers of Good News

⁹ The global chart also gives the pioneer increase throughout the earth during 1983. This is truly astounding! As shown by the sampling of reports below, Watch Tower branches worldwide are rejoicing at the numbers who are coming forward to share in auxiliary, regular and (where needed) special-pioneer service:

Barbados: The number of auxiliary pioneers in April was 292 in 1981, 529 in 1982 and 740 in 1983.

Belgium: Regular-pioneer applications increased 30 percent in 1983.

Chile: The average number of auxiliary pioneers was 987—a 40-percent increase.

Ivory Coast: The number of regular pioneers went up 15 percent over last year.

Portugal: Truly astonishing was April's peak of 3,064 auxiliary pioneers, a 140-percent increase over the previous peak.

Sweden: An all-time peak of 796 regular pioneers reported.

Thailand: In April, 23 percent of our 821 publishers reported as pioneers.

Venezuela: More than 200 started regular-pioneer work in 1983.

¹⁰ Countries where the Kingdom work is greatly restricted also report an increase in publishers and pioneers. An African country where persecutions were most vicious some 15 years ago reached peaks of 616 regular and 207 auxiliary pioneers during the 1983 service year. And on the same continent, in a land where 75 brothers are imprisoned, the number of publishers

increased 35 percent over the previous year's average, while April's auxiliary pioneers numbered 151 percent more than the previous peak. The "watchmen" and their companions insist on raising their voice!

¹¹ All this zealous pioneer activity is stimulating the Kingdom work marvelously. For example, it results in more thorough territory coverage and in many more hours spent in publishing the good news. In 1983 the total time spent worldwide in proclaiming the Kingdom added up to 436,720,991 hours, a remarkable 13.5-percent increase! More studies are started—many of them by auxiliary pioneers—and more interested people are led into association with God's organization.

¹² Pioneering also brings personal benefits. During a month of auxiliary pioneering, a publisher becomes so much more effective and fluent in speaking the Kingdom message to others! There is great joy, too, in associating with others in this service and in seeing magazine placements, return visits and studies increase. Many have enjoyed these occasional months of auxiliary pioneering so much that they have made the necessary adjustments to become regular pioneers. Others auxiliary pioneer on a regular basis.

¹³ The Muslim territory of Pakistan is reported to be rather difficult to work. And yet this report comes from that country:

One brother having auxiliary pioneered regularly for the last 30 months stated: "It seems now the *imdadi* (Urdu word for

9. (a) Referring to the chart, what comment do you have on pioneer increase? (b) What joyful reports have Watch Tower branches sent?

10. What shows that persecution cannot silence the watchmen?

11. How does pioneer activity benefit the congregation, as well as the entire world field?

12. What personal benefits does pioneering bring?

13. What encouragement may we draw from the two experiences from Pakistan?

auxiliary) pioneering is stuck to me very firmly, and I feel I shall have great difficulty if ever I wanted to get away from it. It has become part of life and daily routine to spend at least two hours witnessing to others."

"At least two hours" daily in Kingdom service—that is all that auxiliary pioneering requires. Could *you* do that? It might make you healthier and happier, as this further experience from Pakistan suggests:

Another brother who retired from secular work at the age of 58 and since then has joined the ranks of auxiliary pioneers has this to say: "I have been a Witness for the last 28 years, but never before have I enjoyed and appreciated my being a Witness as much as during the last eight months of my auxiliary pioneering regularly. In answer to a question from my former colleagues why I look *sihatmand* (healthier, Urdu) and *khush* (happier, Urdu) after my retirement, I tell them that it is serving the true God, Jehovah, more fully that gives me joy and satisfaction and makes me look *sihatmand* and *khush*."

Would you not like to be *sihatmand* and *khush*, too? Then use to the full your opportunities for auxiliary pioneering!

Reaching Out for Pioneer Blessings

¹⁴ Let us turn to the 1983 Service Year Report of Jehovah's Witnesses Worldwide as it appears on pages 20-23 of this magazine. These four pages show us much more than mere figures. They testify to the magnificent effort that Kingdom publishers in 205 lands or territories have made to preach the good news. Run your finger down the column headed "Average Pioneer Publishers" and see what a fine contribution so many countries have made

14. Referring to the chart on pages 20-23, what publisher and pioneer progress is to be noted, and in how many territories?

in this service. And the pioneers have had loyal support, too, from the congregation publishers, who have entered into the same spirit of zealous service, even though the contribution of some may be compared to 'the widow's mite.' —Mark 12:41-44.

¹⁵ Families that build their lives around pioneer service are indeed blessed. Some families have made it a goal to be a pioneer *family* and have achieved that goal, sharing as a family in some part-time work that 'keeps the home fires burning.' Other families team up to support one family member in regular pioneer work, and the pioneer spirit that is thus introduced into the family benefits everyone.

¹⁶ All who attended the recent "Kingdom Unity" District Convention heard a fine talk on setting goals. Having the best interest of their children at heart, parents can train young ones to have worthwhile goals in life. (Proverbs 22:6) One of these can be pioneer service. Remember the training that Jesus himself received in his younger years. By the age of 12 he had been so well schooled in the Scriptures that he could reason with the teachers in the temple. (Luke 2:46, 47) He did not reach out for a secular career, such as in law or medicine. Rather he learned to work with his hands as a carpenter, all the while equipping himself spiritually for the work that awaited him. (Mark 6:3; John 7:46) While at school, children of Jehovah's Witnesses today can likewise work toward worthwhile goals. Parents can encourage them in this.

15. How may families be blessed when contributing to the pioneer effort?

16. (a) How may parents show interest in their children's spiritual progress? (b) In reviewing Jesus' early life, what fine example do we find?

1983 SERVICE YEAR REPORT OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES WORLDWIDE

Country	Population	1983 Peak Pubs.	Ratio, One Pub- lisher to:	1983 Av. Pubs.	% Inc. Over 1982	1982 Av. Pubs.	1983 No. Bptzd.	Av. Pio. Pubs.	No. of Cong.	Total Hours	Av. Bible Studies	Memorial Atten- dance
Alaska	439,300	1,574	279	1,501	10	1,361	99	148	24	259,842	968	4,033
Algeria	19,100,000	26	734,615	20	11	18	2		3	1,431	23	80
American Samoa	32,395	84	386	80	23	65	5	9	1	21,200	109	266
Andorra	39,940	94	425	78	-7 *	84	2		1	8,523	39	208
Anguilla	6,524	16	408	14	8	13		1	1	2,462	2	30
Antigua	70,794	199	356	188	-1 *	190	7	18	4	34,023	120	552
Argentina	28,000,000	46,245	605	43,815	10	39,927	4,149	3,456	638	7,650,441	44,029	102,839
Aruba	67,014	295	227	280	-2 *	286	12	10	5	35,291	180	927
Australia	15,376,100	37,636	409	35,982	9	33,153	2,160	2,426	582	6,066,759	16,160	72,457
Austria	7,555,338	15,108	500	14,771	5	14,052	765	811	224	2,340,307	6,944	25,638
Azores	250,700	299	838	271	-3 *	278	18	25	12	52,499	227	834
Bahamas	209,505	602	348	554	8	515	57	58	11	111,513	667	2,290
Bangladesh	95,000,000	20	4,750,000	15	25	12	1	5	1	5,143	35	50
Barbados	265,000	1,425	186	1,310	10	1,196	92	84	16	193,453	990	3,543
Belau	13,000	30	433	27	-16 *	32		8	1	11,878	78	146
Belgium	9,788,017	20,230	484	19,342	4	18,547	1,118	1,081	289	3,103,415	7,687	40,236
Belize	145,000	627	231	594	2	585	63	55	17	120,933	600	2,906
Benin	3,380,000	1,269	2,664	1,062	-2 *	1,082		26	66	109,056	686	4,536
Bermuda	54,050	304	178	281	11	254	17	30	4	57,542	236	680
Bolivia	5,500,000	3,462	1,589	3,228	14	2,839	369	513	76	948,826	4,609	14,783
Bonaire	9,704	39	249	36	-8 *	39	1	2	1	7,359	34	115
Botswana	800,000	373	2,145	342	8	318	22	28	16	64,551	348	1,217
Brazil	128,783,373	145,904	883	133,765	9	122,661	11,649	7,283	2,498	18,451,361	98,278	392,844
Britain	54,773,400	92,320	593	87,732	5	83,564	5,154	6,518	1,154	14,708,668	41,725	178,293
Brunei	190,300	18	10,572	9	-44 *	16		2		1,361	15	62
Burma	31,170,000	1,214	25,675	1,103	2	1,082	49	184	70	314,752	858	3,334
Burundi	4,500,000	280	16,071	256	20	213	11	43	9	73,823	478	729
Canada	24,716,200	77,003	321	73,139	7	68,410	3,670	5,395	1,131	11,831,289	35,093	148,625
Cape Verde Rep.	301,500	155	1,945	145	17	124	9	17	6	38,640	283	563
Cayman Islands	16,821	51	330	46	18	39	4	8	1	11,372	52	118
Central Afr. Rep.	2,400,000	1,230	1,951	1,118	7	1,046	50	106	42	226,165	963	5,738
Chad	4,200,000	155	27,097	114	7	107	16	26	10	52,383	172	626
Chile	11,682,260	21,344	547	19,323	13	17,078	1,842	1,568	288	3,527,985	23,110	70,522
Colombia	28,980,000	20,779	1,395	18,827	9	17,212	1,533	1,236	289	3,248,630	20,753	80,786
Congo	1,600,000	917	1,745	845	6	795	23	28	38	113,675	759	2,924
Cook Islands	17,000	64	266	54	-4 *	56	2	7	4	11,778	44	238
Costa Rica	2,403,781	7,511	320	6,946	11	6,275	690	415	148	1,156,323	6,846	20,351
Curaçao	165,011	980	168	930	10	848	66	83	11	196,283	1,194	3,152
Cyprus	500,000	1,051	476	1,033	1	1,020	72	68	13	155,402	483	2,057
Denmark	5,113,802	14,023	365	13,580	3	13,173	408	694	228	1,723,233	4,296	23,476
Djibouti	300,000	13	23,077	10	67	6	1	3	1	1,912	11	44
Dominica	70,302	209	336	198	2	194	12	19	7	39,607	153	758

Dominican Rep.	5,647,977	7,709	733	7,432	6	6,983	589	687	131	1,496,247	10,894	28,072
Ecuador	8,829,000	7,504	1,177	6,892	17	5,905	579	708	119	1,535,075	9,906	36,827
El Salvador	5,147,275	12,008	429	11,085	15	9,611	1,457	1,105	200	2,510,088	16,383	44,967
Equatorial Guinea	300,060	77	3,897	60	43	42	9	17	3	30,369	232	325
Falkland Islands	1,830	3	610	3	-40 *	5		1	1	324	3	11
Faroe Islands	44,408	83	535	69	15	60	1	14	4	17,890	35	135
Fiji	658,000	819	803	761	3	737	61	119	24	185,528	787	3,061
Finland	4,841,481	14,365	337	14,000	3	13,620	616	1,133	255	2,202,961	6,262	23,602
France	54,257,000	77,867	697	75,209	6	71,095	4,412	3,635	1,221	11,876,440	38,807	154,103
French Guiana	73,022	283	258	268	9	245	21	19	4	57,120	400	949
Gabon	850,000	413	2,058	378	11	342	19	12	13	52,921	427	1,067
Gambia	695,886	13	53,530	12	9	11	1	4	1	7,234	38	70
Germany, F. R.	59,676,500	106,834	559	104,931	3	101,454	4,781	4,269	1,494	14,855,646	38,818	182,416
Ghana	11,649,476	23,298	500	22,082	4	21,287	1,373	2,136	482	4,386,628	26,887	84,476
Gibraltar	31,183	103	303	96	16	83	10	3	1	10,942	25	155
Greece	9,740,417	21,143	461	20,533	7	19,112	819	1,320	439	3,229,663	6,945	36,698
Greenland	51,903	72	721	68	-4 *	71		5	7	11,110	38	128
Grenada	112,000	331	338	314		314	8	30	7	60,986	298	1,038
Guadeloupe	324,000	3,185	102	3,064	8	2,848	213	100	42	467,124	3,240	8,873
Guam	105,979	212	500	201	13	178	21	40	1	58,488	270	687
Guatemala	7,000,000	6,630	1,056	6,325	7	5,921	522	372	104	1,060,061	6,206	24,189
Guinea	5,143,284	199	25,846	152	-1 *	154	4	41	12	63,651	258	813
Guinea-Bissau	530,000	8	66,250	6		6		1	1	772	10	20
Guyana	842,000	1,181	713	1,147	5	1,095	71	158	29	258,156	1,080	3,874
Haiti	6,000,000	3,530	1,700	3,248	6	3,077	216	233	76	617,748	4,171	18,713
Hawaii	993,700	4,953	201	4,812	6	4,558	228	671	60	1,109,396	4,497	14,151
Honduras	3,955,116	3,318	1,192	3,162	7	2,966	218	271	68	678,383	4,290	16,542
Hong Kong	5,300,000	1,120	4,732	1,077	11	972	119	239	14	386,828	1,526	2,361
Iceland	231,958	146	1,589	133	16	115	11	15	2	30,009	88	349
India	710,000,000	5,842	121,534	5,574	9	5,136	384	579	254	1,112,969	3,454	16,834
Ireland	4,907,217	2,215	2,215	2,124	5	2,021	127	313	77	554,453	1,012	4,328
Israel	5,466,000	297	18,404	281	8	261	15	21	5	50,906	170	600
Italy	56,243,935	105,709	532	102,714	9	94,648	8,338	9,920	1,489	21,718,296	65,736	233,042
Ivory Coast	9,273,167	1,710	5,423	1,640	11	1,472	91	173	47	389,263	2,344	6,284
Jamaica	2,300,000	7,176	321	6,842	4	6,588	468	421	166	1,040,470	5,213	19,256
Japan	118,601,534	82,160	1,444	77,577	15	67,730	8,932	27,399	1,504	34,247,263	113,065	198,052
Jordan	3,500,000	61	57,377	54	29	42	3	2	2	5,943	39	153
Kenya	18,000,000	3,005	5,990	2,840	10	2,583	282	518	98	943,953	4,262	8,567
Kiribati	60,000	12	5,000	11	57	7		3	1	4,604	17	55
Korea	40,000,000	33,171	1,206	31,044	7	28,891	2,403	5,491	562	8,002,637	26,101	71,535
Kosrae	6,005	33	182	27	13	24	3	4	1	7,087	35	111
Lebanon	3,000,000	2,014	1,490	1,865	3	1,811	104	83	48	272,910	1,141	4,211
Lesotho	1,365,910	746	1,831	657	3	635	52	67	42	141,236	539	3,212
Liberia	1,800,000	1,137	1,583	1,082	5	1,030	57	115	30	250,166	1,339	5,120
Libya	2,856,000	18	158,667	7	133	3				603	6	6
Liechtenstein	26,380	40	660	37	16	32		3	1	6,026	25	78
Luxembourg	435,500	1,082	402	1,048	4	1,006	72	82	20	193,279	734	2,431
Macao	375,000	12	31,250	11	22	9		6	1	8,983	20	38

Country	Population	1983 Peak Pubs.	Ratio, One Pub- lisher to:	1983 Av. Pubs.	% Inc. Over 1982	1982 Av. Pubs.	1983 No. Bptzd.	Av. Pio. Pubs.	No. of Cong.	Total Hours	Av. Bible Studies	Memorial Atten- dance
Madagascar	9,483,000	1,530	6,198	1,408	21	1,159	164	102	31	260,139	2,206	6,170
Madeira	258,240	421	613	396	8	367	35	23	11	63,035	327	1,050
Malaysia	14,400,312	634	22,713	618	7	579	55	77	18	168,550	927	1,573
Mali	7,000,000	42	166,667	40	5	38	2	15	1	24,341	123	103
Malta	360,222	232	1,553	201	42	142	39	25	2	47,718	131	415
Marshall Islands	31,042	200	155	136	7	127	4	28	2	39,408	228	898
Martinique	328,566	1,429	230	1,370	10	1,245	110	58	22	215,199	1,162	3,634
Mauritania	1,700,000	2	850,000	2	New					24	1	2
Mauritius	956,914	600	1,595	549	13	486	60	55	10	114,779	534	1,464
Mayotte	53,000	9	5,889	6	500	1		2	1	3,248	17	24
Mexico	75,029,693	133,852	561	122,327	15	106,573	13,070	10,068	4,474	22,602,302	138,795	619,564
Montserrat	12,335	30	411	22		22	2	2	1	4,484	25	111
Morocco	20,419,555	91	224,391	82	-4 *	85	1	7	2	19,124	60	186
Nauru	6,000	4	1,500	2		2				217	1	20
Nepal	14,000,000	28	500,000	26	37	19		3	1	5,189	15	81
Netherlands	14,362,428	27,590	521	26,995	1	26,618	1,057	1,585	290	3,907,612	8,024	47,097
Nevis	11,230	42	267	29	7	27		6	1	10,965	34	91
New Caledonia	147,500	580	254	495	16	428	80	35	8	94,093	563	1,426
New Zealand	3,203,300	8,556	374	7,580	6	7,132	386	582	119	1,268,142	4,304	17,523
Niger	4,990,000	77	64,805	67	-3 *	69	6	17	5	27,131	86	152
Nigeria	83,728,000	108,189	774	102,356	6	96,489	3,587	5,849	2,212	15,944,359	80,435	303,994
Niue	3,232	9	359	8		8			1	674	4	49
Norway	4,129,610	7,358	561	7,140	5	6,824	311	226	177	787,393	2,197	14,135
Pakistan	92,000,000	221	416,290	207	7	193	18	46	6	72,316	324	658
Panama	2,088,585	3,652	572	3,462	4	3,321	265	267	76	627,251	3,940	12,678
Papua New Guinea	3,006,799	1,626	1,849	1,557	7	1,460	114	144	83	308,090	1,677	6,529
Paraguay	3,150,893	1,891	1,666	1,734	7	1,617	77	154	44	312,779	1,697	4,391
Peru	18,900,000	17,183	1,100	15,788	9	14,530	1,574	2,019	321	3,862,378	19,476	67,192
Philippines	50,000,000	71,912	695	64,601	7	60,098	4,381	7,116	2,236	11,762,119	30,357	203,991
Ponape	23,140	76	304	67	14	59	1	17	1	23,967	84	314
Portugal	9,345,000	25,118	372	23,341	9	21,447	1,861	1,283	395	3,243,527	15,397	61,479
Puerto Rico	3,300,000	18,460	179	17,991	7	16,817	1,100	1,014	244	2,840,227	13,869	53,177
Réunion	515,814	760	679	744	10	677	56	43	12	129,166	506	2,107
Rodrigues	34,834	19	1,833	17	13	15	3	1	1	2,349	14	47
Rota	1,274	9	142	6	100	3	1	3		3,034	11	18
Rwanda	5,600,000	350	16,000	324	14	285	60	46	15	111,144	694	1,020
St. Eustatius	1,335	3	445	3	200	1		1		928	8	30
St. Helena	6,000	93	65	79	-6 *	84		1	2	6,956	21	196
St. Kitts	35,135	114	308	104	5	99		11	2	21,110	94	277
St. Lucia	115,000	318	362	275	10	249	28	34	5	55,999	291	1,066
St. Martin	15,926	89	179	77	8	71	10	6	1	13,480	51	281
St. Pierre & Miquelon	6,000	13	462	10	43	7		1	1	1,817	9	30
St. Vincent	108,000	138	783	125	7	117	2	13	4	26,549	107	397
Saipan	15,519	26	597	21	-9 *	23	1	8	1	12,951	40	67
San Marino	21,622	75	288	73	-3 *	75		3	1	11,542	21	133

São Tomé	80,000	17	4,706	14	75	8	4	3	1	5,622	48	115
Senegal	6,000,000	389	15,424	375	3	365	25	64	9	124,225	571	963
Seychelles	69,000	53	1,302	50	11	45	5	2	1	8,151	54	154
Sierra Leone	3,354,000	709	4,731	614	4	588	21	110	32	186,386	860	2,942
Solomon Islands	249,500	615	407	567	13	504	38	67	32	129,550	545	2,405
South Africa	30,981,999	31,744	976	30,345	10	27,587	1,822	2,393	918	5,572,819	21,271	92,350
South-West Africa	1,031,927	337	3,062	302	5	287	24	27	13	67,529	325	870
Spain	38,118,000	53,496	713	51,485	5	48,938	3,547	3,816	832	9,256,352	33,795	115,667
Sri Lanka	15,300,000	764	20,026	715	7	669	42	115	24	204,192	826	2,559
Sudan	22,000,000	147	149,660	133	19	112	14	12	3	34,023	245	367
Suriname	350,000	946	370	887	7	830	57	92	15	175,831	826	2,773
Swaziland	554,589	742	747	652	-1 *	658	26	43	38	127,705	483	2,426
Sweden	8,330,700	19,101	436	18,439	4	17,781	865	1,506	315	2,898,294	8,653	32,556
Switzerland	6,467,200	11,905	543	11,582	5	11,049	600	415	238	1,650,807	6,547	22,719
Syria	9,100,000	129	70,543	63	-50 *	126	1	2	7	6,052	26	305
Tahiti	157,000	538	292	492	6	462	33	41	11	84,371	447	1,289
Taiwan	18,500,000	960	19,271	932	3	909	61	168	23	261,176	951	2,926
Tanzania	20,400,000	1,910	10,681	1,837	8	1,701	124	197	83	417,851	1,536	5,372
Thailand	50,731,000	821	61,792	793	3	771	49	121	27	206,725	680	1,886
Togo	2,732,875	2,232	1,224	1,907	17	1,628		68	67	237,916	1,933	5,717
Tonga	90,128	41	2,198	35	17	30	4	8	1	13,736	55	164
Trinidad	1,106,638	3,627	305	3,367	4	3,243	266	386	44	661,292	3,253	9,750
Truk	38,650	43	899	35	9	32		10	2	15,587	89	366
Tunisia	6,535,000	49	133,367	42	-2 *	43		2	1	4,473	24	86
Turkey	45,000,000	800	56,250	771	2	753	22	45	12	132,787	452	1,415
Turks & Caicos Isls.	7,436	33	225	31	7	29	1	6	1	11,099	58	122
Tuvalu Islands	8,000	23	348	18	6	17	4	3	1	4,691	31	155
Uganda	14,500,000	279	51,971	240	13	213	42	41	11	83,296	492	848
U.S. of America	231,932,000	643,170	361	616,058	6	581,934	35,303	52,808	7,837	103,985,822	390,678	1,574,212
Upper Volta	7,318,695	201	36,411	186	11	168	22	40	8	73,394	362	786
Uruguay	2,850,000	4,799	594	4,458	6	4,186	297	432	90	887,719	5,043	14,516
Vanuatu	130,000	55	2,364	48	45	33	8	4	2	10,578	90	211
Venezuela	17,000,000	22,194	766	20,392	13	18,048	1,752	1,930	212	4,259,711	25,754	81,098
Virgin Isls. (Brit.)	12,000	84	143	80	5	76	4	2	3	9,121	59	339
Virgin Isls. (U.S.)	96,000	474	203	448		449	27	34	8	76,751	455	1,640
Wallis & Futuna Isls.	12,500	3	4,167	2		2		1		271	3	
West Berlin	1,869,600	4,968	376	4,893	2	4,805	143	208	61	699,290	1,932	7,891
Western Samoa	160,000	161	994	136	10	124	19	18	2	35,339	126	594
Yap	9,320	51	183	46	15	40	4	12	1	18,045	84	106
Zaire	30,000,000	28,126	1,067	26,234	6	24,648	2,593	4,591	905	7,920,238	42,908	123,718
Zambia	6,242,000	57,034	109	52,994	1	52,556	2,707	3,825	1,393	9,104,427	60,882	282,984
Zimbabwe	7,542,300	12,753	591	11,552	8	10,676	634	750	480	1,949,290	7,868	33,914
177 Countries		2,399,199		2,272,630	7.1	2,122,372	151,662	200,471	41,708	413,970,263	1,678,617	6,343,307
* 28 Other Countries		253,124		229,092	4.0	220,262	10,234	5,627	4,527	22,750,728	118,495	424,400
GRAND TOTAL (205 countries)		2,652,323		2,501,722	6.8	2,342,634	161,896	206,098	46,235	436,720,991	1,797,112	6,767,707

* Percentage of decrease

* Work banned and reports are incomplete

MEMORIAL PARTAKERS WORLDWIDE: 9,292

¹⁷ It is reported that many college graduates today are unemployed. But often well-trained Christian youths who go straight from high school into pioneer service find that suitable part-time employment turns up just when needed. Jehovah is able to bless and provide for those who rely on him while they keep "seeking first the kingdom" in a spirit of self-sacrifice.—Matthew 6:19-21, 31-33; Proverbs 3:5, 6; Malachi 3:10.

¹⁸ Some in the congregation may comment, 'Why all this talk about pioneering? It is really beyond many of us.' But joyful pioneers can make such a fine contribution to the spirit of the congregation and to the expansion of the work locally! *The Watchtower* of November 15, 1982, featured a study article entitled "The Spirit of the Christian Ministry." The question on paragraph 7 read: "What question should each Christian minister ask himself?" This directed attention to a question within the paragraph, reading: "Can I really justify before Jehovah the fact that I am not a pioneer?" Commenting on this paragraph at a *Watchtower* Study in the Philippines, three of those present, of various ages, stated, one after the other, that meditation on this question had prompted them to become pioneers. They were roundly applauded by the congregation.

¹⁹ True, there are those dedicated Witnesses who, before Jehovah, are not in a position to pioneer. The majority in our congregations may be such. Even so, these can make a valuable

17. In contrast to worldly youths, what confidence may young self-sacrificing pioneers have?

18. How did a discussion of pioneer service benefit a Filipino congregation?

19. How can those unable to pioneer make a valuable contribution in the congregation?

contribution to a pioneer spirit in the congregation. Elders and family heads can encourage young ones to make pioneering their goal. The entire congregation can give wholehearted support to those who already are pioneers. On appropriate occasions, such as at Memorial season, at the visit of the circuit overseer or during school vacation, there are many who can make the effort to share in auxiliary pioneering. Have faith that Jehovah will strengthen you as you make the effort. "According to your faith let it happen to you." (Matthew 9:29) But if poor health, responsibilities or other things stand in the way even of auxiliary pioneering, maintain a positive attitude. Devote what time you can to publishing "good news of something better" and support and encourage those who do pioneer.

²⁰ We live today in a violent and im-

20. (a) To what world situation should we be awake constantly? (b) What, then, should be our attitude toward the work of salvation?

For many, the step into regular-pioneer service has also meant entering a richer life. A regular pioneer in Nigeria had this to say:

"As a full-time pioneer, I have realized so many blessings and I must count some of them: (1) I can now read fluently as a result of constant preaching. (2) Though I have not been to school, I can conduct home Bible studies with ease. (3) As an elder, I have been able to conduct the *Watchtower* Study and the Theocratic Ministry School successfully. (4) During Kingdom Ministry Schools I was able to understand everything discussed in English. (5) If anybody wants to sabotage my preaching by using intellectual speech, I can make him understand that I am up to the task through my response. All of this has made me draw the conclusion that the pioneer work is a gift to me from Jehovah."

moral world. Jehovah is about to execute judgment, even as he did in ancient times. (Genesis 6:11; 18:20; Luke 17:26-30) These truly are "the last days." (2 Timothy 3:1-5, 13) Let us share, as we have opportunity, in the grand work of publishing salvation to those who may yet come out of the old system to take their stand on the side of Jehovah's Kingdom. We are thankful that Jehovah has blessed his work so richly during the past year. During 1984, may we join again with the Kingdom watchmen everywhere in raising our voices to Jehovah's praise.—Isaiah 62:6.

Some questions for review:

- ☐ What good news have clergymen failed to preach, and why?
- ☐ What does the chart on pages 16 and 17 show as to the activity of Zion's watchmen?
- ☐ What benefits does pioneering bring to the individual and to the congregation?
- ☐ How can all publishers in the congregation contribute toward a fine pioneer spirit?

In Unison Keep Crying Out Joyfully

"Become cheerful, cry out joyfully in unison."—ISAIAH 52:9.

IN UNISON! The dictionary defines this phrase to mean "in perfect agreement: so as to harmonize exactly." Jehovah's Witnesses serve in unison because they have the mind of Christ, and are united in magnifying Jehovah's name. Because of Jehovah's blessing upon them, even the symbolic land in which they dwell is cheerful, every feature of it crying out joyfully. All of this is in line with the apostle Paul's prayerful words: "Now may the God who supplies endurance and comfort grant you to have among your-

selves the same mental attitude that Christ Jesus had, that with one accord you may with one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."—Romans 15:5, 6; John 17:4, 6, 20, 21.

² 'Glorify God!' That is what Jehovah's unified "watchmen" are doing today. Thus they fulfill the prophecy: "In unison they keep crying out joyfully; for it will be eye into eye that they will see when Jehovah gathers back

1. Why do Jehovah's Witnesses now cry out "in unison"?

2. (a) According to 1 Corinthians 1:10 and Ephesians 4:4-6, why do the watchmen see "eye into eye"? (b) Who also echo the joyful cry, and how?

Zion." (Isaiah 52:8) They see "eye into eye," because they are "fitly united in the same mind and in the same line of thought." (1 Corinthians 1:10; see also Ephesians 4:4-6.) And now, as the "great crowd" echoes the 'joyful cry,' the global shout rises to a crescendo.—Revelation 7:9, 10, 15.

³ God's heavenly organization, including "myriads of myriads" of holy angels, raises its "voice" in giving praise to Jehovah as the grand Creator, and to "the Lamb," Jesus Christ. (Revelation 5:11, 12; 4:11) Likewise, God's people on earth today are organized for joyful sacred service. Even the symbolic land in which they dwell is "cheerful." Says the prophet: "Become cheerful, cry out joyfully in unison, you devastated places of Jerusalem, for Jehovah has comforted his people; he has repurchased Jerusalem." (Isaiah 52:9) Jehovah has brought "his people," the earthly representatives of "Jerusalem above," his heavenly organization, back from the devastation they experienced during World War I, and their "crying out joyfully" in full unison has resulted in global expansion that continues to this day!—Galatians 4:26, 27; Isaiah 52:8.

⁴ Next the prophecy says: "Jehovah has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth must see the salvation of our God." Jehovah truly acted on behalf of his people in the early part of those "last days," and shortly, at Har-Magedon, he will again 'bare his holy arm,' bringing salvation to his organized people. At that time, 'many

3. How has Jehovah's organization on earth reflected the joy of the heavenly hosts?

4. In what way has Jehovah "bared his holy arm" already, giving us what confidence for the future?

nations will have to know that he is Jehovah.'—Isaiah 52:10; 12:2; Ezekiel 38:23.

⁵ Jehovah's day of execution is at hand! "There is a hurrying of it very much." (Zephaniah 1:14) In the meantime, the "good news of something better" must be published abroad throughout all the earth. (Isaiah 52:7) To get the work accomplished, Jehovah's organization uses a number of legal corporations, such as the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, and these supervise the work of the congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses in some 94 branches throughout the earth. During the past five years, there has been a great expansion of the printing and other facilities at these branches, so that the Society is in better position than ever before to 'publish peace and salvation.'

⁶ During the past year, a large addition was built on to the Society's factory at Watchtower Farms, New York State, where the Bethel Home is also being enlarged. A huge offset magazine press has been installed, with a capacity for printing at least 400,000 magazines a day. Many of the Society's older M.A.N. letterpresses have been dismantled and rebuilt as two-unit offset presses. These are being used now in Watch Tower branches throughout

5, 6. (a) Why is it urgent to get God's work accomplished? (b) How has the organization acted with a view to giving a wider witness?

In June, Korea reported a new peak of 6,656 subscriptions, 110 percent more than in the previous June. Kingdom publishers in Greenland obtained 510 new subscriptions for the year, a 71-percent increase over 1982

the world, as well as at Brooklyn and Watchtower Farms. Expansion is taking place earth wide. For example, the branch in Germany is now operating its second high-speed offset rotary press, and the Japan branch is about to start production with its third offset rotary press, capable of producing 60,000 magazines per hour.

Magazines to the Fore!

⁷ Why all this expansion in the field of theocratic printing? It is because of the zealous activity of all of you brothers in the field. During the past year you obtained a splendid total of 1,756,153 subscriptions for the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines, a 28-percent increase over the previous year.

⁸ A circuit overseer in the United States wrote that the special four-page insert on magazine activity, published in *Our Kingdom Ministry* of April 1983, "had a telling effect on all of us." He said it was common for a car group to return from service having obtained four or five subscriptions. One pioneer Witness overcame her former negativity and obtained nine subscriptions in one week. The Japan branch reported that new subscriptions for May and June totaled 70,115—compared to 49,016 in the previous two-month campaign—even with a yearly subscription price of 1,800 yen (\$7.50, U.S.)! But the value of our magazines, spiritually, cannot be measured in money, not even in silver or gold. (Proverbs 8: 10, 11) May we continue to show zeal in offering subscriptions during 1984!

7. What progress was there in placing subscriptions during 1983?

8. How has recognizing the value of our magazines brought results?

⁹ However, what of our general magazine distribution during 1983? It was good, but this is the one feature of our service that has not increased. What can we do about this? Again, deep appreciation for the contents of our magazines should stimulate us to carry them and offer them on every occasion, especially on our weekly Magazine Day. We say "weekly" Magazine Day, for so many of our brothers around the earth are enjoying such regular participation. Branches as far apart as Kenya and Hong Kong have requested that second and fourth Saturday for magazine activity be omitted from the Society's calendar, as this could result in halving the magazine distribution in their territories. By all means, let everyone share in this joyful service on the second and fourth Saturdays, but why not advance now to the further goal of *every Saturday* for magazine service—from house to house, in the streets and markets and on magazine routes!—Ecclesiastes 11:1.

¹⁰ So often it is just one magazine that sparks interest, with the final re-

9. How might increased magazine distribution be achieved?

10. What benefit did one magazine bring an *Awake!* reader?

Awake! is now published in additional languages as a quarterly magazine—Arabic, Bicol, Croatian, Fijian, Hebrew, Hiri Motu, Icelandic, Kikamba, Kikuyu, Russian, Shona, Sinhalese, Turkish and Urdu, as well as in some other Oriental languages. Though subscriptions are not available, individual copies can be obtained through the congregations. These special editions have been most enthusiastically received

sult that another "sheep" is added to the "fold" of the "fine shepherd." (John 10:14, 16) The following experience illustrates the point:

One day a Kingdom publisher in Réunion was passing the home of a confirmed drunkard when the man called him over. "Monsieur, I have stopped drinking," he said with joy. Since in Réunion many people go to a hospital to be detoxified, the Witness asked him, "Which hospital did you go to?" The man replied, "I didn't go to a hospital; I read the *Awake!* [July 8, 1982, on alcoholism] and I stopped drinking." For two months, at the time of writing, the Witness has been conducting a Bible study with this family in the book *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth*, published by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. One magazine could accomplish just that!

This leads into another topic:

Home Bible Studies on the Increase!

¹¹ In June 1982, the Watch Tower Society released the illustrated study book *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth*. By mid-September 1983, 14,663,229 copies of this book had been printed in the Society's factories around the earth. It is now available in 55 languages. And what effect has this book had on the world field? A tremendous impact! The Watch Tower branch in Puerto Rico writes concerning the Spanish field there:

'We received 30,000 *Live Forever* books in August, but these soon went, and then in October we received 30,000 more. February of 1983 saw us down to "0," but in March and June we received a total of 40,000 more. We are again down to around 10,000, but we are expecting 35,000 more books soon.'

11. What impact has the *Live Forever* book had on the world field?

¹² In Lapland an elderly man, who is not a Witness himself, wrote the Watch Tower branch in Finland:

"I have read quite a number of religious books. I think, however, that your book *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth* is one of the best of them. I would like you to send me 11 copies of it so that I can give them to my friends."

This book no doubt contributed to the big increase in home Bible studies during the 1983 service year. Around the earth, 1,797,112 studies were being conducted monthly with newly interested persons—a 13.3-percent increase over the 1,586,293 studies in 1982.

¹³ Do you want to learn how to cope with the problems of life? Then contact Jehovah's Witnesses at one of their Kingdom Halls and request a Bible study in this *Live Forever* book. Have you been interested for some time in Bible prophecy as explained by Jehovah's Witnesses, but at present you are not an active Witness? You, too, should study this book with one of the Witnesses.

¹⁴ Are you a Witness who does not yet conduct a Bible study with a newly interested person? Then why not arouse someone's interest in this book—through house-to-house calls or informal witnessing—and suggest that you read the book together? It is so easy to do this by just reading the paragraphs and discussing them with the help of the questions and pictures that are provided. As Jesus himself

12. (a) How has appreciation been shown for this book? (b) Referring to the chart on pages 20-23, do you see countries where Bible studies exceed the number of publishers?

13. How may the *Live Forever* book aid those who are not active Witnesses?

14. How can all active Witnesses put the *Live Forever* book to good use?

said, when we accept the yoke of Christian discipleship we 'find refreshment for our souls,' and the joy we have is enhanced when we personally have a share in helping others to become disciples. (Matthew 11:29, 30; 28:19) And such studies will open the way for us to use, later, the faith-strengthening study material in our new pocket-size book, *United in Worship of the Only True God*.

¹⁵ During the past year, the 32-page picture brochure *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!* has been another powerful instrument in the global teaching program of Jehovah's Witnesses. The large African country of Zaire, where the new peak of 28,126 publishers is a 14-percent increase over the average for 1982, reports as follows:

The brochure *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!* in our various local languages has had a profound effect on the preaching work. Many have commented that it is just the thing for their territory where people are illiterate or read poorly. Congregations rapidly distribute their stock. A Protestant church in Isiro requested supplies from the local congregation for use in their Sunday school. A Catholic priest in Medje drove for miles in his Land-Rover in an effort to obtain supplies for a local school. It is not uncommon to see travelers with their copy of this brochure in hand.

¹⁶ The Watch Tower factories preparing this publication have now printed more than 17,000,000 in 111 languages, and the demand throughout the earth is greater than ever. Many children have found this brochure to be a fine help in planting seeds of truth with

15. What profound mark has the *Enjoy Life* brochure made?

16. (a) What distribution has the brochure had? (b) In harmony with Ecclesiastes 11:6, how can young children use the brochure?

school friends, leading to Bible studies with them.—Ecclesiastes 11:6.

¹⁷ A country where our work is banned sent this report:

A Witness sister using the *Enjoy Life* brochure to teach three young children had just completed a discussion of idols. After the study the children disappeared quickly into another room. They reappeared shortly, arms full of cut woodwork, crosses and various other articles. These were deposited on the table before the Witness. Surprised, she asked what that was for. The older girl replied, "We have just learned that we have to get rid of idols and images according to the Bible."

The Ivory Coast sent this information:

A circuit overseer's wife reports that she is able to use the brochure in handling various subjects, such as polygamy, free love, spiritism and prayer, just by referring to a few of the pointed and well-drawn pictures. Yes, as she says, "A picture is worth a thousand words."

"Turn Away, Turn Away"

¹⁸ Not alone in Africa but throughout the earth, all those desirous of worshipping the true God, Jehovah, must turn away from Babylonish false religion and the immoral ways that such religion either spawns or permits. Says

17. What experiences illustrate the teaching value of this brochure and its pictures?

18. From what, principally, should Jehovah's people "turn away"?

A family moved from France to the island of Mooréa in French Polynesia to help the small congregation there. After some months, they are now reporting 4 pioneers, 5 publishers and 51 home Bible studies. It is said that on the nearby island of Raiatée, every family has studied with Jehovah's Witnesses. Worldwide, "the harvest is great."—Matthew 9:37.

God's prophet: "Turn away, turn away, get out of there, touch nothing unclean; get out from the midst of her, keep yourselves clean, you who are carrying the utensils of Jehovah."—Isaiah 52:11.

¹⁹ Since 1919, Jehovah's people have been cleansed of Christendom's religious falsehoods. Yet, from time to time, someone may return to idolatry and be disfellowshipped from the congregation. He may try to draw away those who carry "the utensils of Jehovah"—the precious provisions that God makes for sacred service in house-to-house, magazine, Bible study and other Christian activity. But loyal Witnesses do not so much as "touch" such apostasy.—2 Corinthians 6:17; 2 John 9-11.

²⁰ However, there is other uncleanness that today claims many times more victims than does apostasy—*moral uncleanness*. We need to be on guard against the world's pressures to indulge in immorality! The apostle Paul warns that "neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men kept for unnatural purposes, nor men who lie with men . . . will inherit God's kingdom," and to the list of vices he adds also "uncleanness, loose conduct." (1 Corinthians 6:9, 10; Galatians 5:19-21) There is no place for immoral persons in the spiritual paradise that Jehovah has established among his people today, nor will there be a place for any such in the Kingdom or in the Paradise earth, now so close at hand. Let all of Jehovah's clean people hold to their place in the spiritual paradise by following Paul's pointed counsel: "Flee

19. How should we react if apostates try to draw us away from our sacred service?

20. What does God's Word say about moral uncleanness, and how may we avoid it?

What answers would you give to the following?

- ☐ How has Jehovah equipped his people to 'cry out in unison'?
- ☐ In what positive ways may we show appreciation for our magazines?
- ☐ What effective use might all of us make of recent study publications?
- ☐ How should we respond to the counsel and encouragement of Isaiah 52:11, 12?

from fornication," "flee from idolatry."—1 Corinthians 6:18; 10:14.

²¹ When Jehovah's anointed people were delivered from bondage to Babylonish religion, they experienced the impact of the words spoken by God's prophet: "You people will get out in no panic, and you will go in no flight. For Jehovah will be going even before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard." (Isaiah 52:12) Today, the "great crowd" of the Lord's "other sheep" rejoice also in this deliverance. All the 2,501,722 loyal publishers of the Kingdom have full confidence that Jehovah will continue to go before them, and that he will be their rear guard, right down to and through the decisive battle at Har-Magedon. (Revelation 16:13-16) Therefore, you witnesses of the true God, Jehovah, "become cheerful, cry out joyfully in unison"! Let your 'comely feet' carry you swiftly in publishing good news of something better, for "your God has become King!"—Isaiah 52:7-9.

21. (a) In line with Isaiah 52:12, what confidence should we now have? (b) How can we show that we have 'comely feet'?

Insight on the News

Merely for Show

"For nearly 200 years, the U.S. Congress has begun its daily deliberations with prayer," states an article in *The Oregonian*. "Out of 100 senators, perhaps five show up each morning . . . In the House, where the proceedings are televised, the turnout is higher—maybe 20 out of 435. Of those who do show up, virtually none come for the prayer."

Then why have the prayers? The article continues: "Congressional prayer—scorned in practice as a neutered, meaningless exercise in piety—is endorsed piously by politicians as evidence of their virtue. The voters are supposed to fall for the logic once described by A. J. Liebling: 'Man go to church—good man, no lie. Man not go to church—bad man, lie.'"

Jesus denounced praying simply for outward appearances. (Matthew 6:5, 6) People who pray in this fashion fall into the category of those hypocrites whom Jesus said 'honor God with their lips, yet their heart is far removed from him.' —Matthew 15:8.

UN Paralysis

"For the second year in a row," says *The Times* of London, "Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations Secretary-General, has issued a report bemoaning the international community's tendency to ignore and defy the UN in pursuit of short-term national

interests." It quotes him as saying that the world has adopted 'a role where rivalries rule diplomacy and vendettas overshadow cooperation.'

Calling this year's report "even more negative than the first," the article continues: "For Señor Pérez de Cuéllar the single most important factor, leading to what he calls 'the partial paralysis of the United Nations as the guardian of international peace and security', is the weakening of the commitment of all nations, especially the five permanent members of the Security Council . . . to cooperate within the UN framework."

Singling out the United States and the Soviet Union as the worst offenders, the article states that "plans for solving particular problems . . . are useless as long as cooperation between the superpowers is untenable."

Strife and lack of cooperation between the world powers, leading up to our "time of the end," was prophesied long ago by Daniel, who wrote: "Their heart will be inclined to doing what is bad, and at one table a lie is what they will keep speaking. But nothing will succeed." (Daniel 11:27; 12:4) And now paralysis of the UN's efforts to establish "international peace and security" highlights the truthfulness of Jesus' statement that "a house divided against itself falls." (Luke 11:17) Only God's Kingdom will bring real and lasting peace and security to the earth.—Isaiah 9:6, 7.

Children's Beliefs

"Many younger pupils take seriously the argument that Jesus Christ was an alien from another planet," reports *The Guardian*. The finding was based on essays written by 13-year-old boys in over a hundred schools on the subject "What I Believe." According to Mr. Martin Rogers, the author of the report, "Elijah's departure in a chariot of fire placed him firmly amongst the space age prophets and Jesus' ascension was seen as just another blast-off." One student wrote: "I think God is a scientist and we are his experiments."

"Most of the pupils seemed thoroughly confused by what they found in the Bible," states *The Guardian*. "Supernatural events like the parting of the Red Sea were 'treated like the Father Christmas story' and many thought the healing miracles were sociological."

How different this is from the case of the young man Timothy! Concerning him it was written: "From infancy you have known the holy writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through the faith in connection with Christ Jesus." Wise parents today will also instruct their young children in an accurate knowledge of the Bible, helping them to establish a strong faith in God and providing a bulwark against what is "falsely called 'knowledge.'"—2 Timothy 3:15; 1 Timothy 2:3, 4; 6:20, 21.

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