

The Watchtower

March 1, 1987

Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom



Fortune-Telling
—Why So Popular?

In This Issue

Fortune-Telling—Still in Fashion	3
Your Future —A Better Way to Learn About It	4
Kingdom Proclaimers Report	7
Jesus Rebukes the Pharisees	8
'Upon the Watchtower I Am Standing'	10
'Riding in the Cause of Truth'	15
Praise Be to God, the Source of Life and Growth	21
Making All Things New	25
A Brochure With a New Look	30

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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- April 5: 'Upon the Watchtower I Am Standing.' Page 10. Songs to Be Used: 170, 192.
- April 12: 'Riding in the Cause of Truth.' Page 15. Songs to Be Used: 133, 43.
- April 19: Making All Things New. Page 25. Songs to Be Used: 187, 208.

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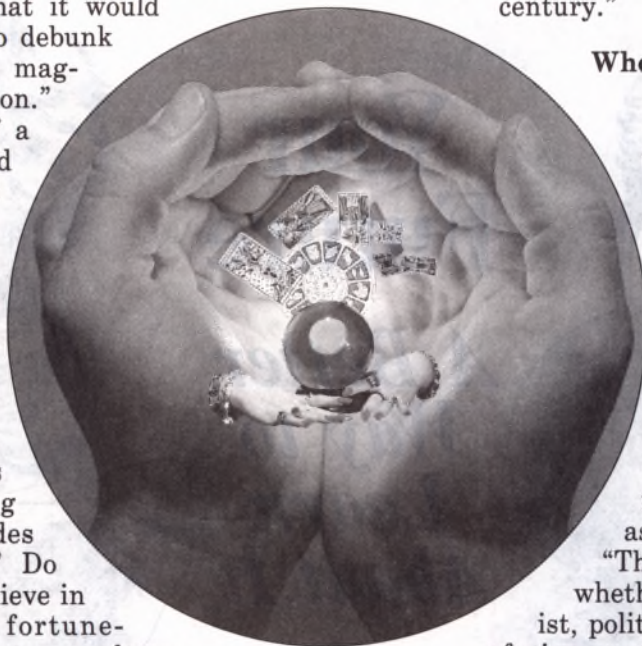
Fortune-Telling —Still in Fashion

“ONE would imagine, in this day of widespread enlightenment and education, that it would be unnecessary to debunk beliefs based on magic and superstition.”

This was part of a statement signed by 186 eminent scientists, including 18 Nobel prize winners. What were they talking about? Astrology, a common form of fortune-telling using the stars that, according to them, “pervades modern society.” Do you personally believe in some forms of fortune-telling? Or are you perhaps skeptical, or even strongly opposed, like these prominent scientists? Your view of this matter is important. Let us see why.

This practice is extremely widespread. According to the spokesman for a congress of fortune-tellers in Paris, “4 million French [people] go to psychics every six months.” In the United States there are an estimated 175,000 part-time astrologers and 10,000 full-time. They are also numerous in Great Britain, where they have their own schools. And the French magazine *Ça m'intéresse* (That's Interesting) comments: “Everywhere, including in the most highly developed societies, we

meet up with similar statistics. Psychics are flourishing at the close of our century.”



Who Consults Them —And Why?

Some may believe that only poorly educated, lower-class people are interested in the occult “sciences,” of which astrology is probably the most widespread. But Madame Soleil, a famous French astrologer, reveals: “They all come to me, whether rightist or leftist, politicians of all points of view, and foreign chiefs of state. I even have priests and communists.” In harmony with this, when the magician Frédéric Dieudonné died, an article appearing in *Le Figaro*, a serious French daily newspaper, recalled that he attracted “a very large clientele of Parisian personalities, ministers, high officials, writers and actors.”

Gamblers consult astrologers to learn how to place their bets. Businessmen go to them to find out how to invest their money. Astrologers are even willing to tell you when to leave on a trip or what to cook. And fortune-telling has invaded other fields too. Police departments in different

countries resort to seers to search for criminals or missing persons. And according to the French weekly *Le Figaro Magazine*, "the Pentagon employs 34 persons gifted with second sight to supply information on what is going on in secret military bases in the U.S.S.R." The same magazine reports U.S. congressman

Charles Rose as saying that the Russians also resort to psychic powers.

Why is astrology still so fashionable? Is it a harmless diversion or pastime? Is it the best way to find out what the future holds—or is there a better way? Let us see if we can find answers to these important questions.



Your Future

A Better Way to Learn About It



IN 1962 Indian astrologers predicted a worldwide catastrophe "because of a rare conjunction of eight planets in the sign of Capricorn." Nothing came of it, however. More recently, at the end of 1980, most French astrologers were of the opinion that then president of France, Giscard d'Estaing, would be reelected for a second term. But his opponent, François Mitterrand, won the election. Failures like these remind us that astrology provides no sure way to know the future.

Is there, then, another way? For example, will efforts of scientists to predict the

future help you? Well, here is the prediction made by the McGraw Hill Institute (United States) in 1970 of what would happen by 1980: "Drugs to defeat cancer, manned spaceflights to Mars and Venus, a permanent lunar base, cars run on electricity, a generalization of home computers, the possibility of choosing your baby's sex, and three-dimensional television and cinema."

Back in 1970 the scientists of this institute stated: "This method [of predicting] aims at achieving a reliable forecast by the unanimous opinion of a group of experts."

But these experts' predictions have proved wrong in these fields and a number of others, such as politics and economics.

A Sure Source of Information

If astrologers and scientists cannot foresee with any certainty what is going to happen, does that mean that it is impossible to get reliable information about the future? Before giving up, we should check what the Bible says on the subject. Remember, Jehovah, the Author of the Bible, is described as "the One telling from the beginning the finale, and from long ago the things that have not been done."—Isaiah 46:10.

God's Word contains many prophecies. How do they differ from the predictions of astrologers? Following is the reply of a work entitled *The Great Ideas*: "But so far as the foreknowledge of mortal men is concerned, the Hebrew prophets seem to be unique. Unlike pagan diviners or soothsayers, . . . they do not have to employ arts or devices for penetrating divine secrets. . . . For the most part their prophetic speeches, unlike those of the oracles, seem to be unambiguous. At least the intention seems to be to reveal, not to conceal, God's plan on such matters as He Himself wishes men to foresee the course of providence."

As an example of this, much information about Jesus was recorded in the Bible many centuries before his birth. It was prophesied that he would be born in the town of Bethlehem and in the family line of Jesse, the father of King David. (Micah 5:2; Isaiah 11:1, 10) The Scriptures also foretold that he would be put to death on a stake but that none of his bones would be broken, as was the custom with such executions. These details proved true, and they are just a few examples of what one Bible scholar estimates to be more than 120 prophecies that were fulfilled in Jesus.—Psalm 22:16, 17; 34:20.

"And the Sign . . . Does Come True"

'What is wrong with going to a fortune-teller or reading your horoscope in a newspaper? Isn't this just harmless fun?'

The Bible does not treat the matter so lightly. In fact, it puts us on our guard against mediums and diviners. In the book of Deuteronomy, Jehovah gives the following warning: "In case a prophet or a dreamer of a dream . . . does give you a sign or a portent, and the sign or the portent does come true of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us walk after other gods,' . . . you must not listen to the words of that prophet or to the dreamer of that dream."

—Deuteronomy 13:1-3.

Notice that the Scriptures do not question the fact that some of the predictions of mediums and astrologers may come true. Rather, the Bible warns us that, if these predictions are based on signs in the heavens or other methods of divination, they come from the demons, are deceiving, and may turn men away from the true God.

—See Acts 16:16-18.

To pay attention to astrologers or to others who claim to predict the future is to run the risk of incurring serious spiritual problems and ending up a slave of "the wicked spirit forces in the heavenly places." (Ephesians 6:12) Thus, to consult such individuals is considered by God to be a serious sin; those who practice such things are detestable in his eyes and they will not inherit his Kingdom.

—Revelation 22:15.

It is thus for our own good that the Bible puts us on guard against astrology and all other forms of divination.

THE BIBLE FORETOLD IN ADVANCE THAT:

- ♦ Jesus would be born in Bethlehem.
—Micah 5:2
- ♦ He would be born in the family of
Jesse, the father of King David.
—Isaiah 11:1, 10
- ♦ He would be put to death on a
stake.—Psalm 22:16, 17
- ♦ None of his bones would be
broken.—Psalm 34:20

A Prophecy Fulfilled Today

Moreover, the Bible contains prophecies that focus on our day. Let us consider one of the most important of these. It describes a series of events that would mark the period immediately preceding a dramatic intervention of God's Kingdom in earthly affairs. These events include world wars, earthquakes, epidemics, famines, and increasing lawlessness. Has not the intensification of these things become prominent in world news during our 20th century?—Matthew 24:3, 7-14; Luke 21:7, 10, 11; 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

Jesus explained that the fulfillment of these prophecies would herald the arrival of his Kingdom just as surely as the appearing of buds on the trees announces the arrival of spring. He even specified that they would have to be fulfilled in just one generation. All the aspects of the sign, including the details mentioned above, have been fulfilled before our eyes since 1914.* We can therefore have complete confidence that the Kingdom will act very soon.—Luke 21:29-33.

Another feature prophesied for this

* For more details about the fulfillment of these prophecies since 1914, see chapter 7 of the book *True Peace and Security—How Can You Find It?* published by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.

time was "anguish of nations, not knowing the way out." (Luke 21:25) Now, why is there such a fascination today with astrology and other forms of the occult? The French newspaper *Le Monde Dimanche* answers: "Faced with the crisis, people will stop at nothing to find reassurance. Parapsychology gives great comfort for little effort, and in this age of fear-inspiring scientific accomplishments such as nuclear feats and gene splicing, people are tempted to escape to the unknown and irrational, trying to rediscover a meaning to life." So we should not be surprised at the widespread interest in occult practices, such as astrology. It is one of the symptoms of the "anguish" that people are experiencing today in fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy.

'Lift Your Head Up'

What should Christians do when they see all these things? Give way to fear, like the people around them? Jesus offered the following counsel: "But as these things start to occur, *raise yourselves erect and lift your heads up*, because your deliverance is getting near."—Luke 21:28.

Would you like to know your future in more detail? Then take the time to examine the Bible in depth and "test the inspired expressions to see whether they originate with God." (1 John 4:1) You can do this with the help of the magazine *The Watchtower*, which regularly discusses Bible prophecies and explains their application to our day. Thus, as you become convinced that the end of the present troubled world is close, you, too, will be able to 'lift your head up.' You will also learn what you must do to enjoy the blessings of the Messianic Kingdom, which will soon intervene in world affairs for the benefit of all right-hearted people.

Kingdom Proclaimers Report

Expanded Facilities to Match Kingdom Increase

DEDICATION day for recently expanded branch facilities of Jehovah's Witnesses was a very happy day in the Caribbean island of Jamaica. This expansion had become necessary because of Jehovah's blessing on the faithful efforts of the brothers in preaching the good news in this beautiful tropical island.

A missionary home was established in Jamaica as early as 1946. With the missionaries spearheading the work, the increase in publishers was rapid, so that in just ten years the average number of Witnesses reporting monthly grew from 732 to 3,216. In order to care for the increase, it became necessary to arrange for new facilities.

In 1954 suitable land was obtained and construction began on a sturdy new two-story building in a quiet suburban area of Kingston. It was completed in May 1958. The number of publishers that year rose to a peak of 4,367.

The 'planting' and 'watering' continued and Jehovah "kept making it grow," so that by 1983 the number of publishers had grown to over 7,000, creating the need for further expansion. (1 Corinthians 3:6) The Branch Committee, with the approval of the Governing Body, decided to expand the present facilities. Over 250 brothers from all over the island came to help out. Skilled and unskilled workers volunteered their services as masons, carpenters, electricians, and plumbers. Their ages ranged from 10 to 86. Some contributed financially to the project, others contributed food



for the workers, and still others opened up their homes to provide accommodations for volunteers who came from far away. In one year the project, consisting of adding a third floor of five rooms and a recreational area, a room on the second floor, and 400 square feet (37 sq m) of storage space, was completed, ready for use by the 11 members of the Bethel family.

Milton Henschel, a member of the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses, gave the dedication talk on February 22, 1986. He spoke on the theme "The Triumphal Procession." (2 Corinthians 2:14) Those listening to the dedication pro-

gram totaled 2,949. Of these, 380 were located in the Kingdom Hall and other parts of the building, and the others were tied in by telephone and radio to other Kingdom Halls in the city and to a school auditorium.

Most of those invited to the branch Kingdom Hall were brothers and sisters who had been in the truth for 30 years or more. Many expressions of appreciation were heard for the fine addition to the building. It is our hope that many more of the "great crowd" of "other sheep" will yet join the triumphal procession as the new branch facilities are used in caring for the Kingdom increase in Jamaica.

Jesus Rebukes the Pharisees

IF IT is by Satan's power that he expels demons, Jesus argues, then Satan is divided against himself. "Either you people make the tree fine and its fruit fine," he continues, "or make the tree rotten and its fruit rotten; for by its fruit the tree is known."

It is foolish to charge that the good fruit of casting out demons is due to Jesus' serving Satan. If the fruit is fine, the tree cannot be rotten. On the other hand, the Pharisees' rotten fruitage of absurd accusations and groundless opposition to Jesus is proof that they themselves are rotten. "Offspring of vipers," Jesus exclaims, "how can you speak good things, when you are wicked? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."

Since our words reflect the condition of our hearts, what we say provides a basis for judgment. "I tell you," Jesus says, "that every unprofitable saying that men speak, they will render an account concerning it on Judgment Day; for by your words you will be declared righteous, and by your words you will be condemned."

Despite all Jesus' powerful works, the scribes and Pharisees request: "Teacher, we want to see a sign from you." Although these particular men from Jerusalem may not personally have seen his miracles, irrefutable eyewitness evidence regarding them exists. So Jesus tells the Jewish leaders: "A wicked and adulterous generation keeps on seeking for a sign, but no sign will be given it except the sign of Jonah the prophet."

Explaining what he means, Jesus continues: "Just as Jonah was in the belly of the huge fish three days and three nights, so the Son of man will be in the

heart of the earth three days and three nights." After being swallowed by the fish, Jonah came out as if resurrected, so Jesus foretells that he will die and on the third day be raised alive. Yet the Jewish leaders, even when Jesus later is resurrected, reject "the sign of Jonah."

Thus Jesus says that the men of Nineveh who repented at the preaching of Jonah will rise up in the judgment to condemn the Jews who reject Jesus. Similarly, he draws a parallel with the queen of Sheba, who came from the ends of the earth to hear Solomon's wisdom and marveled at what she saw and heard. "But, look!" Jesus notes, "something more than Solomon is here."

Jesus then gives the illustration of a man from whom an unclean spirit comes out. The man, however, does not fill the void with good things and so becomes possessed by seven more wicked spirits. "That is how it will be also with this wicked generation," Jesus says. The Israelite nation had been cleansed and



Jesus' Life and Ministry

had experienced reformatations—like the temporary departure of an unclean spirit. But the nation's rejection of God's prophets, culminating in its opposition to Christ himself, reveals its wicked condition to be much worse than at its beginning.

While Jesus is speaking, his mother and his brothers arrive and take a position at the edge of the crowd. So someone says: "Look! Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak to you."

"Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" Jesus asks. Extending his hand toward his disciples, he says: "Look! My mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father who is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother." In this way Jesus shows that regardless of how dear the ties are that bind him to his relatives, dearer still is his relationship with his disciples. **Matthew 12: 33-50; Mark 3:31-35; Luke 8:19-21.**

♦ How did the Pharisees fail to make both the tree and the fruit fine?

♦ What was "the sign of Jonah," and how was it rejected?

♦ How was the Israelite nation like the man from whom an unclean spirit came out?

♦ How did Jesus emphasize his close relationship with his disciples?

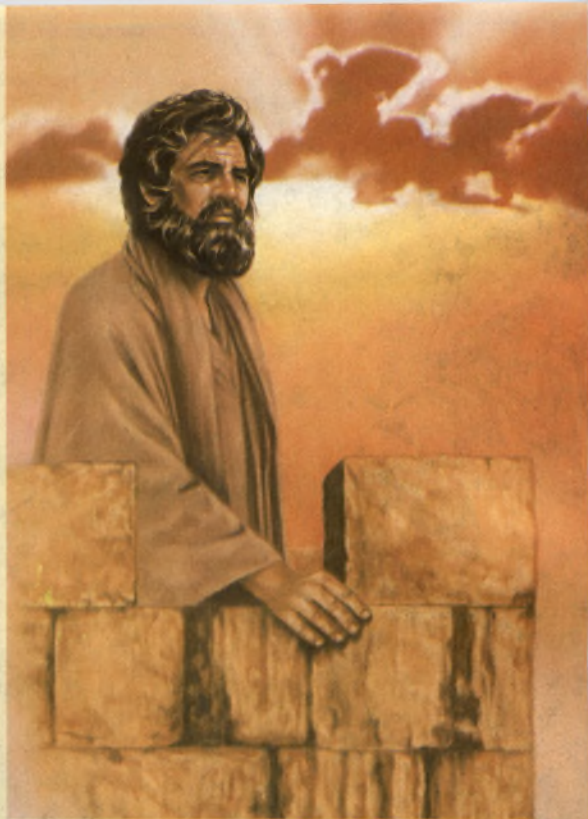


'Upon the Watchtower I Am Standing'

A GOD-FEARING 21-year-old man living in the northeastern United States had a mission. It was his goal to expose the false religious teachings of his day, especially the doctrines of eternal torment and predestination. Also, he wanted to champion the truth about the ransom and the object and manner of Christ's coming. How would he do all of this? By shining the light of God's Word, the Holy Bible, on religious beliefs.—Psalm 43:3; 119:105.

²Charles T. Russell, the first president of the Watch Tower Society, was that man, and he decided in 1873 to publish religious literature as a means of bringing the light of Bible truth into focus. To sincere readers, those publications would reveal the cracks in Christendom's dogmas. Any hidden doctrinal defects would not escape the Bible's powerful light. (Ephesians 5:13) At the same time, this literature would spotlight 'healthful teaching' to build up the faith of readers. (Titus 1:9; 2:11; 2 Timothy 1:13) Did the zeal for Bible truth that drove Russell in his quest have a precedent?—Compare 2 Kings 19:31.

- 1, 2. (a) What goal did Charles T. Russell have?
(b) How would Bible literature help to accomplish his goal?



"And he proceeded to call out like a lion: 'Upon the watchtower, O Jehovah, I am standing constantly by day, and at my guardpost I am stationed all the nights.'—ISAIAH 21:8.

Early Christians: Champions of God's Word

³The first-century Christians championed the use of God's Word among the Jews and the Gentiles. They stood as if stationed on a watchtower, heralding forth the truth to all who would hear. (Matthew 10:27) Their Leader, Jesus Christ, set the pace. He said: "For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth." (John 18:37) Although perfect, he refused to rely on his own wisdom or personal opinions. Rather, his teachings originated with his Superior Teacher, Jehovah God. "I

3. How did Christ Jesus set the pace for championing the truth?

do nothing of my own initiative," he told a group of Jews. "But just as the Father taught me I speak these things." (John 8:28; see also John 7:14-18.) According to the Gospel accounts of his earthly ministry, Jesus quoted (or spoke parallel thoughts) from about one half of the books of the Hebrew Scriptures.—Luke 4:18, 19 (Isaiah 61:1, 2); Luke 23:46 (Psalm 31:5).

⁴ Even after his death and resurrection, Christ was still using God's Word to teach the truth. For example, when Cleopas and his companion were traveling from Jerusalem to Emmaus, Jesus helped those disciples reason on the Scriptures. The account states: "And commencing at Moses and all the Prophets he interpreted to them things pertaining to himself in all the Scriptures." (Luke 24:25-27) Later that same day, Jesus appeared to the 11 apostles and some of his disciples to build up their faith. How? By the skillful use of the Scriptures. Luke writes: "Then he [Jesus] opened up their minds fully to grasp the meaning of the Scriptures, and he said to them: 'In this way it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from among the dead on the third day.'"—Luke 24:45, 46.

⁵ Following its Exemplar, in the year 33 C.E. the Christian congregation began its public ministry with the use of the Scriptures. The setting: an open area outside a house in Jerusalem. After hearing the sound of "a rushing stiff breeze" upon this house, a crowd of thousands of Jews of Jerusalem and Jewish pilgrims are drawn to this place and assembled. Peter steps forward—the 11 other apostles are around him—and with a powerful voice he begins to speak: "Men of Judea and all you inhabitants of Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give ear to my sayings."

4. Give examples of how Jesus used God's Word to teach the truth.

5. At Pentecost 33 C.E., how did Peter follow the example of Christ in using the Scriptures?

Then pointing out "what was said through the prophet Joel" and what "David says," Peter explains the miracle that has just taken place and that "God made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you impaled."—Acts 2:2, 14, 16, 25, 36.

⁶ When the early Christians needed clarifying information on faith and conduct, the first-century governing body also made good use of the Scriptures. For example, at the meeting of the governing body in the year 49 C.E., the disciple James, acting as chairman, focuses their attention on a pertinent scripture found at Amos 9:11, 12. "Men, brothers, hear me," he says. "Symeon has related thoroughly how God for the first time turned his attention to the nations to take out of them a people for his name. And with this the words of the Prophets agree, just as it is written." (Acts 15:13-17) The entire body concurred with James' proposition and then put their scripturally based decision in written form so that it could be delivered to all the congregations and read by them. What were the results? The Christians "rejoiced over the encouragement," and "the congregations continued to be made firm in the faith and to increase in number from day to day." (Acts 15:22-31; 16:4, 5) Thus, the early Christian congregation became "a pillar and support of the truth." But what about modern history? Would C. T. Russell and his associate Bible students imitate this fine, first-century example? How would they champion the truth?—1 Timothy 3:15.

Magazines With a Far-Reaching View

⁷ July 1879 saw the birth of Russell's principal vehicle for Bible enlightenment

6. (a) Explain what took place at a meeting of the first-century governing body. (b) How were the congregations informed of the governing body's decision, and with what benefit?

7. (a) What was the purpose of *Zion's Watch Tower*? (b) To whom did it look for support?

—*Zion's Watch Tower and Herald of Christ's Presence*. Its first issue laid out the magazine's noble purpose: "As its name indicates, it aims to be the lookout from whence matters of interest and profit may be announced to the 'little flock,' and as the '*Herald of Christ's Presence*,' to give the 'meat in due season' to the 'household of faith.'" Trust in almighty God was the magazine's cornerstone. Its second issue stated: "'Zion's Watch Tower' has, we believe, JEHOVAH for its backer, and while this is the case it will never *beg* nor *petition* men for support. When He who says: 'All the gold and silver of the mountains are mine,' fails to provide necessary funds, we will understand it to be time to suspend the publication."

⁸ *Zion's Watch Tower*, now *The Watchtower*, has been published continuously for more than 107 years. It has grown from a monthly magazine of 6,000 copies printed in one language to a semimonthly magazine of 12,315,000 copies available in 103 languages.—Compare Isaiah 60:22; Zechariah 4:10.

⁹ The title, *Watch Tower*, was an apt choice by Russell. The word usually used in the Hebrew Scriptures for "watchtower" means "lookout" or "observation point," from which a guard could easily spot an enemy in the distance and sound an advance warning of the approach of danger. Suitably, then, for its first 59 years of publication, the title page carried this challenging quotation from Isaiah 21: 11, 12, *King James Version*: "Watchman, What of the Night?" "The Morning Cometh."

8. Explain *The Watchtower's* growth in light of Isaiah 60:22 and Zechariah 4:10.

9. How was the title *Watch Tower* an appropriate one?

¹⁰ The posted watchman of Isaiah's prophecy was due to step forward shortly. Amid the earth's prevailing wicked state of gloom, Russell had gladly broadcast the good news of "the morning" to come. Jesus Christ's Millennial Reign of peace is the theme of a welcome bulletin. But before "the morning" arrives, the class serving as a watchman—the remnant of spiritual Israel today—boldly warns of the progress of "the night," which will reach its darkest point in "the war of the great day of God the Almighty" at Har-Magedon.—Revelation 16:14-16.

¹¹ Earlier, in Isaiah 21:8, we are introduced to this faithful watchman with these words: "And he proceeded to call out like a lion: 'Upon the watchtower, O Jehovah, I am standing constantly by day, and at my guardpost I am stationed all the nights.'"

¹² Picture in your mind a watchman stationed on a high tower, bending forward, scanning the horizon during the daylight, straining to pierce the darkness during the night—always on the alert. You now have the main idea conveyed by the Hebrew word for "watchtower" (*mits-peh'*) as used in Isaiah 21:8. Since the watchman is so vigilant, who in his right mind would doubt his ringing report? Likewise today, the watchman class has exerted itself by searching through the Scriptures to see what Jehovah has in store for this system of things. (James 1:25) This watchman then calls out that message loudly and fearlessly, principally through the pages of *The Watchtower*. (Compare Amos 3:4, 8.) This magazine

10. Who serves as the watchman of Isaiah 21:11, and what message does he announce?

11, 12. (a) How do the words at Isaiah 21:8 show that the watchman class is faithful and alert? (b) By what agent does today's report come, and how is it principally spread?

will never shrink in fear from championing the truth!—Isaiah 43:9, 10.

¹³ On October 1, 1919, a new magazine appeared on the world stage: *The Golden Age*.^{*} The watchman class would use this instrument as an associate to *The Watchtower*. Although its articles would not delve into Bible subjects as deeply as those in *The Watchtower*, it would alert mankind to false religious teachings, the coming destruction of the present wicked system of things, and the new earth of righteousness to follow. Yes, it too would champion the truth!

¹⁴ Eighteen years later the name of *The Golden Age* was changed to *Consolation*. "The new name stands for truth," stated the issue of October 6, 1937. *Consolation* became *Awake!* with the August 22, 1946, issue. In that issue it pledged: "Integrity to the truth will be the highest aim of this magazine." To this day, it has not failed to keep that promise. Uniquely, *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* carry the banner of truth high for all to see. In so doing, the magazines follow the path blazed by the early Christian congregation.—3 John 3, 4, 8.

^{*} Interestingly, some readers were at first disappointed with the cover design of *The Golden Age*. To them it appeared too commonplace. In response the Watch Tower Society's annual report said: "In this connection we would suggest that just at the time the publication of *The Golden Age* started there was a printers' strike in Greater New York. Only a few days before, a contract had been made for the publication of *The Golden Age* and the men who were operating the presses which take the kind of paper and cover used in it did not go on strike. It thus seemed providential that the character of cover and paper had been selected, for the reason that had any other been selected it would have been impossible to start the magazine at all. Thus the Lord seemed to favor the infant publication."

13. What associate journal appeared in 1919, and what similar purpose does it have?

14. What was the aim of *Consolation*, and later *Awake!*?

History-Making Watchtower Articles, Decade by Decade

- 1879: "God Is Love"—championed Jesus' ransom sacrifice as the basis for mankind's redemption
- 1879: "Why Evil Was Permitted"—explained why Jesus Christ's presence would be invisible
- 1880: "One Body, One Spirit, One Hope"—pinpointed 1914 for the ending of the Gentile Times
- 1882: "The Wages of Sin Is Death"—exposed the doctrine of eternal torment as a denial of God's love
- 1885: "Evolution and the Brain Age"—exposed the evolution theory as false
- 1897: "What Say the Scriptures About Spiritism?"—gave proof of spiritism's demonic origin
- 1902: "God First—His Appointments"—emphasized obeying God's law in the family and in business dealings
- 1919: "Blessed Are the Fearless"—brought new life to an awakening organization of fearless worshipers
- 1925: "Birth of the Nation"—made plain the prophecies showing that God's Kingdom was born in 1914
- 1931: "A New Name"—henceforth the name Jehovah's Witnesses would set true Christians apart from apostate Christendom
- 1935: "The Great Multitude"—showed that gathering of those who would live forever on earth was under way
- 1938: "Organization"—introduced a truly theocratic arrangement among Jehovah's Witnesses
- 1939: "Neutrality"—fortified Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide to withstand the pressures of World War II
- 1942: "The Only Light"—sounded a go-ahead signal for the courageous witness work to continue
- 1945: "Immovable for the Right Worship"—showed that Christians must abstain from receiving blood transfusions
- 1952: "Keeping the Organization Clean"—showed that disfellowshipping by congregations is Scriptural
- 1962: "Subjection to 'Superior Authorities'—Why?"—offered reasons for relative subjection to human powers
- 1973: "Keeping God's Congregation Clean in 'the Time of His Judgment'" —urged shunning tobacco use
- 1979: "Zeal for Jehovah's House"—reiterated that house-to-house preaching follows the apostolic pattern
- 1982: "Beloved Ones, . . . Keep Yourselves in God's Love"—alerted Christians to apostates' method of operation
- 1983: "Walking With God in a Violent World"—confirmed that Christians must have no part with violence
- 1984: "The Recent Pen for 'Other Sheep'" —clarified how this earthly class is brought into unity with those in the new covenant "fold"
- 1987: "Christian Jubilee Climaxes in the Millennium"—showed how all loyal Christians gain liberty and life

***The Watchtower and Awake!:* Champions of Truth**

¹⁵ The “faithful and discreet slave” class, the “watchman,” today uses the *Watchtower* magazine under the direction of the Governing Body of Jehovah’s Witnesses as its main channel for dispensing spiritual “food at the proper time.” (Matthew 24: 45) This follows the pattern of the first-century congregation, which put clarifying information on doctrine and morals into written form “to be read to all the brothers.” (1 Thessalonians 5:27) Right from its start *The Watchtower* has been a Bible-using and Bible-teaching magazine. For example, the first issue of *Zion’s Watch Tower* quoted or cited more than 200 texts from at least 30 Bible books. But more is needed than merely quoting Bible verses. People need help to understand them. *The Watchtower* has always advanced Bible comprehension. From 1892 to 1927 each issue contained weekly Bible readings and a discussion of a key text from each reading. For other examples, see the chart

15. (a) What method of dispensing spiritual food today is similar to that in the early Christian congregation? (b) Besides quoting Bible verses, what else is needed? Give examples.

Do You Remember?

- ☐ Why did C. T. Russell begin publishing Bible literature?
- ☐ How did early Christians champion the truth?
- ☐ Why is the word “Watchtower” in the title of this magazine?
- ☐ Who is the modern-day watchman, and what instrument does he principally use to amplify his voice?
- ☐ How do *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* champion Bible truth?

entitled “History-Making *Watchtower* Articles, Decade by Decade.”

¹⁶ How would *The Watchtower* maintain the purity of its printed message? The magazine’s first editor, C. T. Russell, instituted safeguards to make certain that what was printed in *The Watchtower* was the truth as then understood. One of those safeguards is identified in his will made on June 27, 1907. (Russell died on October 31, 1916.) His will states:

“I direct that the entire editorial charge of *ZION’S WATCH TOWER* shall be in the hands of a committee of five brethren, whom I exhort to great carefulness and fidelity to the truth. All articles appearing in the columns of *ZION’S WATCH TOWER* shall have the unqualified approval of at least three of the committee of five, and I urge that if any matter approved by the three be known or supposed to be contrary to the views of one or both of the other members of the committee, such articles shall be held over for thought, prayer and discussion for three months before being published—that so far as possible the unity of the faith and the bonds of peace may be maintained in the editorial management of the journal.”

¹⁷ Each member of the Editorial Committee, according to Russell’s will, had to be “thoroughly loyal to the doctrines of the Scriptures” and had to exhibit, as prominent characteristics, “purity of life, clearness in the truth, zeal for God, love for the brethren and faithfulness to the Redeemer.” Also, Russell stipulated that “it shall not in any manner be indicated by whom the various articles appearing in the journal are written . . . that the truth may be recognized and appreciated for its own worth, and that the Lord may more particularly be recognized as the Head of the church and the Fountain of truth.”

16, 17. What did *The Watchtower*’s first editor do to ensure that this magazine would always champion Bible truth?

¹⁸ To this day the Governing Body follows similar guidelines. Each article in both *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* and every page, including the artwork, is scrutinized by selected members of the Governing Body before it is printed. Furthermore, those who assist in writing articles for *The Watchtower* are Christian elders who appreciate the seriousness of their assignment. (Compare 2 Chronicles 19:7.) They spend many hours in researching the Bible and other reference material to make sure that what is written is the truth and that it faithfully follows the Scriptures.

18. Why can we read *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* with confidence?

‘Riding in the Cause of Truth’

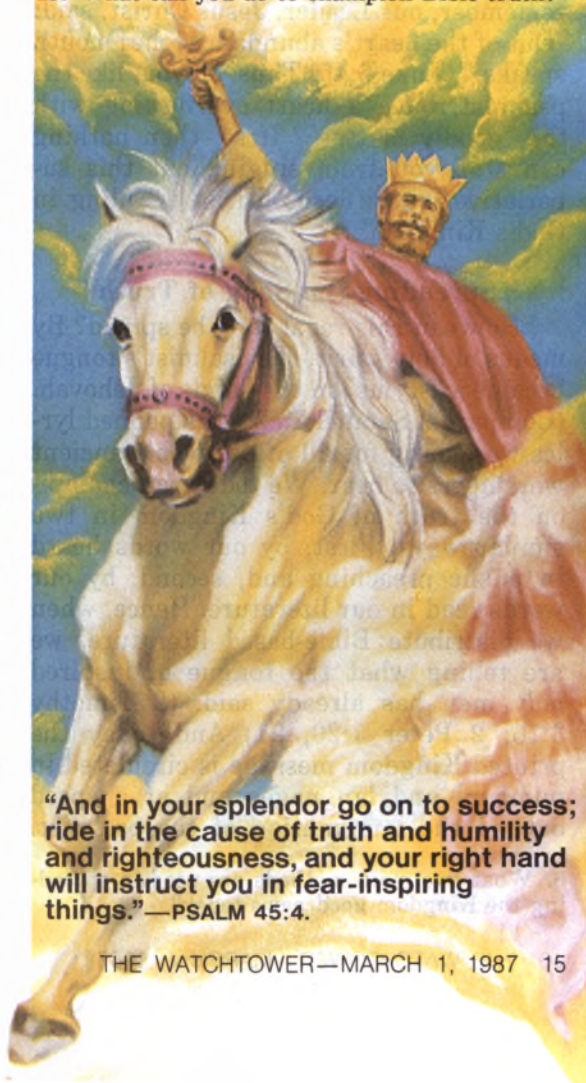
THE poet-singer was eager to begin his song. Anticipation of the coming of a good government in the hands of an incorruptible, righteous ruler was too strong. He could not keep silent. No longer able to contain himself, the psalmist burst forth with these words: “My heart has become astir with a goodly matter. I am saying: ‘My works are concerning a king.’ May my tongue be the stylus of a skilled copyist.” (Psalm 45:1) The original poet-singer is long dead. But his prophetic song still lives, and the force of it was never more

1, 2. (a) What message excited the psalmist?
(b) Why should that same message stir us?

(Ecclesiastes 12:9, 10; 2 Timothy 1:13) It is not unusual for one magazine article—that you may read in 15 minutes—to take from two weeks to over a month to prepare.

¹⁹ Therefore, you can read *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* with confidence. But you can do more. You can enthusiastically offer these magazines to others so that they also can learn the truth and benefit from hearing the messages of the ‘watchman standing upon the watchtower.’ (Isaiah 21:8) Yes, along with the modern-day watchman, you too can champion Bible truth.

19. What can you do to champion Bible truth?



“And in your splendor go on to success; ride in the cause of truth and humility and righteousness, and your right hand will instruct you in fear-inspiring things.”—PSALM 45:4.

powerful than now.—Compare Colossians 3:16.

² What has the “goodly matter” that stirred the psalmist’s heart proved to be? It is related to the good news of God’s Kingdom! So “goodly” is the Kingdom message that it deserves to “be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations” before “the end” of these nations comes. (Matthew 24:14) Today, has the “goodly” theme of God’s Messianic Kingdom stirred your heart? It should. Why? Because the Hebrew verb translated “has become astir” (*ra-chash’*) signifies excited motion, like a bubbling, boiling liquid. The verb also connotes fullness. And remember, our Leader, Jesus Christ, said: “Out of the heart’s abundance [the] mouth speaks.” (Luke 6:45) Thus, do you, like the psalmist, have a heart overflowing with the “goodly matter”? If so, then nothing can stop you from singing out this superlative truth: Jesus Christ is ruling in God’s Kingdom!

Spreading the Song of Truth

³ How can this regal song be spread? By means of holy spirit, the psalmist’s tongue became a “stylus” in the hands of Jehovah. (Compare 2 Samuel 23:2.) His penned lyrics were sung for all of Jehovah’s ancient worshipers to hear. We today can champion the truth of God’s Kingdom in two similar ways. First, by our words heard in public preaching and, second, by our words read in our literature. Hence, when we distribute Bible-based literature, we are telling what the tongue of inspired holy men has already said. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21) And today the printed Kingdom message is circulated in numbers and languages and at a speed beyond the imagination of the psalmist.

3. What two main methods are used in spreading the Kingdom good news today?

Are you having a regular part in its dissemination, especially by the distribution of the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* journals?

⁴ The appearance of Jehovah’s King stimulates the psalmist to write: “You are indeed more handsome than the sons of men. Charm has been poured out upon your lips. That is why God has blessed you to time indefinite.” (Psalm 45:2) From the day of his anointing with the spirit of God, Jesus’ lips persistently preached the Kingdom, until the human agents of Satan temporarily silenced them. Because of Jesus’ loyalty, Jehovah then blessed *him forever* by resurrecting him from the dead and exalting him above all other creatures. (Philippians 2:8-11) Since Jesus’ heavenly glorification, when he became ‘the exact representation of God’s very being,’ he is more beautiful than the most exalted ruler, human or angelic. (Hebrews 1:3, 4) Now, as the enthroned King, Jesus empowers the lips of the anointed watchman class and their associates to sing out boldly the good news of the Kingdom. However, this is also a song of war.

⁵ The psalmist next calls out to the reigning King: “Gird your sword upon your thigh, O mighty one, with your dignity and your splendor. And in your splendor go on to success; ride in the cause of truth and humility and righteousness, and your right hand will instruct you in fear-inspiring things.” (Psalm 45:3, 4) Since 1914 Christ has been riding a war steed, ready for action. (Revelation 6:1, 2) He is girded with a sword—the symbol of war and also of authority and power from God to execute opposing nations. Christ has

4. (a) How has Christ Jesus become “more handsome than the sons of men”? (b) How does the anointed watchman class imitate the ‘charm of Christ’s lips’?

5, 6. (a) What does Christ’s ‘riding in the cause of truth’ imply? (b) How does the watchman class use *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*?

already battled with Satan and his demons, pitching them down from the heavens and confining them to the vicinity of the earth.—Revelation 12:1-13.

⁶ However, before peace is restored, things more terrible than this will be wrought by the King's right hand when he 'rides in the cause of truth' at Armageddon to destroy all of God's enemies on earth. (Psalm 45:4; Revelation 16:14, 16; 19:17, 18) Christ has emboldened the anointed watchman class to sing out this warning too. What does the "watchman" use to amplify his voice? Principally the pages of the *Watchtower* magazine—the journal that is preeminent in announcing Jehovah's established Kingdom. The watchman class, like an army of stinging scorpion-locusts, is imbued with the same spirit that drives Christ to "ride in the cause of truth." (Revelation 9:7-11) Effectively, they use the magazines prepared under the direction of the "watchman"—*The Watchtower* and *Awake!*—"in the cause of truth."—Matthew 24:45; compare Revelation 9:16-19.

'Riding for Truth'

⁷ For more than one hundred years, *The Watchtower* has been championing 'the cause of Kingdom truth.' It skillfully uses God's Word as a sword in peeling away the layers of error wrapped around false religious teachings. (Compare Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12.) *Awake!* magazine also advocates the cause of truth. When it comes to current events, *Awake!* slices through the veil that enshrouds Bible-discrediting scientific theories and dangerous social and moral trends. What can we do to place these magazines in the hands of more people so that they can hear the life-saving Kingdom message?

7. In what aggressive way do the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines promote Bible truth?

⁸ All who love truth should "become astir" with the message that the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* journals contain. (Psalm 45:1) How? Why not read them as soon as you receive them? 'I am not going to read a secular magazine or book until I have first read through our magazines,' Lillian said to herself ten years ago. She is still faithful to that resolve. (Matthew 6:33) What can you do after you read them? Talk about their contents with others—family and fellow congregation members. This should also fire you with zeal for witnessing with the magazines so that you may tell your neighbors about the good things you have read. No doubt you will *want* to share in magazine witnessing each week, taking them to neighbors' homes. This may be compared with the way that the apostle Paul "thoroughly bore witness."—Acts 20:20, 21.

⁹ Peter and his wife Petra have been serving as missionaries in an African country for the past four years. The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines are one of their chief sources of spiritual stamina. "*The Watchtower* helps us to keep spiritually alert in our territory," says Petra. "We derive encouragement and strength from each issue of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*," Peter adds, "and every time the magazines arrive, it seems to us that we are receiving a letter from home." (Compare Psalm 46:1.) Do you have the same deep appreciation for our journals and are you as eager to read them as are Peter and Petra? That kind of spirit will prompt you to offer the magazines regularly to others too.

8, 9. How can applying the principle at Ephesians 5:16 to the reading of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* help you "become astir" to share in magazine witnessing? Give examples.

¹⁰ Kingdom publishers should have a positive attitude toward magazine witnessing. People who are sincerely religious still welcome the Bible-based information contained in our journals. (Compare Acts 10:15, 30-33.) Why? Because they can get it from no other source. More than 45 years ago in Sweden, Lars got a stack of *Watchtower* magazines from an employee. "This makes sense," he told his wife after reading them. "What the Bible says, *The Watchtower* says." What Lars read moved him to baptism—March 1940. Consider another example. Two pioneer ministers from the southern United States said:

"A woman was contacted in the magazine work. She's the treasurer of a large Baptist church and a very serious Bible student too. When she read the series on the theme of Armageddon in the *Watchtower* issues of January 1 to February 15, 1985, she was delighted. Previously, she had spent hours researching that subject and came up with nothing except the scripture found at Revelation 16:16. She had asked her minister: 'What is Armageddon? Can you explain it?' He looked at her and said, 'That's a deep subject,' and then walked away. She remarked that *The Watchtower*, on the other hand, answered her every question and that this was the only source she had found with the needed scriptures on the subject of Armageddon."

¹¹ Can you schedule at least one day for magazine witnessing each week, making this part of your spiritual routine? (Compare Philippians 3:16.) "Publishers, and pioneers too, do not spend sufficient time in magazine work," observes the Watch Tower Society's Nigerian branch. But

10. What type of attitude is needed for effective magazine witnessing, and what benefits can it produce?

11. (a) Why schedule magazine witnessing, and how often? (b) Can magazine service be a help in the Bible study work? Explain. (c) How may you be able to place *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*? See box.

PLACING MAGAZINES

Have You Tried?—

- ♦ House-to-house witnessing
- ♦ Street witnessing
- ♦ Business witnessing
- ♦ Magazine-route witnessing
- ♦ Evening witnessing
- ♦ When book offer is refused
- ♦ When making return visits
- ♦ Calling on former Bible students
- ♦ When traveling or shopping
- ♦ When talking to relatives, coworkers, neighbors, schoolmates, or teachers



should magazine witnessing now overshadow the disciple-making work? On the contrary, reports from the Society's branches in Australia and Brazil show that placing magazines can be the initial step in starting many Bible studies. "From my initial magazine placements,

three studies were started," says an Australian sister. How may you be able to place magazines that might lead to a Bible study? Look at the box entitled "Placing Magazines" for suggestions.

Have You Tried These Suggestions?

¹² *Our Kingdom Ministry* of March 1984 had a four-page insert on magazine witnessing. Have you tried the suggestions it offered? Kingdom publishers would do well to read that insert again and apply its advice in the field service. One sister from the United States did this; the results pleasantly surprised her. She writes:

"I've been putting into practice the points outlined in the March 1984 *Kingdom Ministry* insert about magazine placements, and it's working! At the end of 1983 I had only placed 36 magazines the whole year! I was unhappy, not so much because of the numbers on the report, but because I had failed to get this life-giving information into the hands of people who need it. I prayed to Jehovah about the matter and determined to make more of an effort to place *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* I put to use the suggestions about setting a personal goal for placements, using a brief presentation that highlights only one magazine, regularly going out in field service on magazine day, and having a positive attitude. Now when the householder rejects the regular offer, I say: 'Well, in that case I'll just leave you the latest issues of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* for 40 cents.' These points really work. In the last four months, I've been able to average 14 magazines per month!"

¹³ In the December 1888 issue of *Zion's Watch Tower*, under the heading "A Suggestion to the Reapers," this advice was given: "The greatest difficulty on the part of many seems to be, that their hearts are so full of the good tidings, that they are tempted to tell a little too much concerning

the Plan of God." Is that advice still applicable? When asked what publishers can do to increase magazine placements, one circuit overseer from France answered: "Be brief. Get to the point."

¹⁴ In many of the languages in which the magazines appear, attractive illustrations in four colors have added to the appeal of the Kingdom message as it reaches different types of people. With the January 8, 1987, issue, *Awake!* joined *The Watchtower* in being printed in four colors in most major languages. Have you used the illustrations and pictures in the magazines as talking points? Many have, with good results. Theresa, a missionary in the Far East since 1976, has. She distributes 260 magazines a month. "I use the pictures to highlight the main point of my presentation," she says. "Many times I just show the cover to the householder and mention the topic, and the magazine almost places itself."

¹⁵ Kay, a missionary in the country of Suriname, has had a similar experience. She and her husband have been there for ten years, and they find the pictures to be effective when witnessing, especially to those of the Hindu faith. Why? Kay explains:

"The Hindu religion is a picture religion. At one door, I asked a woman: 'Please tell me the name of your gods on your pictures.'

"This one is Shiva," she answered.

"Now, which one is the top god?" I next asked. No answer. 'Shall we read Jeremiah 10: 10-12? Which God can make the claim of being the Creator? Only Jehovah. We know you love pictures. Aren't these pictures in *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* beautiful and interesting? Wouldn't you like the joy of learning what they mean?'"

Why not try weaving the pictures into your conversation next time you are in magazine work?

14, 15. How can the pictures in *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* be used in witnessing? Give examples.

12. What suggestions proved helpful to one publisher?

13. What advice published in 1888 is still practical today?

¹⁶ While serving in Hong Kong, Gene averaged over 300 magazine placements per month. How did he do it? He explains:

“First, pray for Jehovah’s blessing upon your magazine witnessing. Second, be positive, smiling, and friendly. Third, be adaptable and agreeable, and look for a common ground with the householder. Fourth, order enough magazines for the entire month. I have a large order, since this gives me extra motivation. Fifth, set aside one evening a week for magazine service, since more people are at home then and in a relaxed mood. Sixth, start a magazine route, even if it is a small one.”

Starting a Magazine Route

¹⁷ “Keeping accurate records of where magazines have been placed and then calling back regularly is one way to increase magazine distribution,” says Ollie, who has served in the African country of Burkina Faso. “I have had 15 people on my magazine route. Since Burkina Faso is not a printing branch and mail delivery is uncertain, the Witnesses often receive their magazines for distribution in bunches, maybe four or five issues at a time.” Is that true of your country too? If so, what can be done to overcome this challenge to magazine placements? “You can hold copies of each issue in your hands, fan the magazines out, and invite the interested person to select which one he would like to read,” suggests Ollie. “Usually, he will take all of them.”

‘Keep Astir With a Goodly Matter’

¹⁸ You publishers of the Kingdom have

16. What suggestions from a publisher in Hong Kong may you find helpful?

17. (a) To what feature of our magazine witnessing can the principle at Acts 15:36 be applied? (b) In countries that have poor mail service, what is one way the publishers can place magazines?

18. What aspects of recent field-service reports are especially commendable, and to what could we give greater attention?

helped the number of subscriptions obtained for both magazines to rise dramatically. You are to be commended for your zeal in spreading the good news in this way. Also commendable is the rise in the total number of magazines placed. Perhaps, though, we can give more attention to our individual placements of the magazines. With more intensive territory coverage, magazine placements per publisher have declined. Since we are living deep in the time of the end, can we become even more ‘astir with the goodly matter’ of the Kingdom by means of magazine witnessing?—Psalm 45:1; 1 Peter 4:7.

¹⁹ Christ in Kingdom splendor is riding on to success in sanctifying his Father’s holy name and vindicating His universal sovereignty. (Revelation 6:2) Let us use our tongues and the printed page to announce his arrival. May we loyally raise our voices with the anointed watchman class as it joins with Christ in championing the truth of God’s established Messianic Kingdom. Yes, let us widely distribute *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*—magazines that fill a vital role as our King ‘rides in the cause of truth.’—Psalm 45:4.

19. In what two ways can we champion Kingdom truth?

Do You Remember?

- ☐ What is the “goodly matter” that should stir your heart?
- ☐ Christ’s ‘riding in the cause of truth’ brings what results?
- ☐ In what sense do *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* serve “in the cause of truth”?
- ☐ How can we give more attention to magazine witnessing?

Praise Be to God, *the Source of Life and Growth*

As told by Eduard Warter

THE eyes feast on majestic mountain ridges interspersed with deep, narrow canyons and broad valleys. Torrents rush through gullies—watering gardens, vineyards, and fields on the fruitful plains. But does the onlooker consider the Source of life, who makes such growth possible, worthy of praise?—Psalm 36:9.

This sunny mountainous landscape is in the Kirghiz Republic—a populous Soviet republic in Central Asia. Tens of thousands of Soviet citizens of German origin live there. My family, too, lived in this fruitful place for a time, and we marveled at the God who brings about such wonderful growth. Yes, we praised him and talked openly to others about his grand deeds.

Obedient to the Source of Life

When I was born in 1901, my parents lived in Memelland (now Klaipėda), then part of East Prussia, on the Baltic coast, about ten kilometers (6 mi) from the Russian border. While I was going to school, the first world war broke out, and we became eyewitnesses to the horrors of mass murder. We German frontier dwellers had been on good terms with our Russian neighbors and wondered: ‘Whose fault was it? Whose side was God on?’ At school, however, slogans such as “For God, Emperor, and Country” stirred up patriotic feelings.

In time, after the war, I succumbed to this influence, volunteering for service in the frontier guard and later in the German Army in Königsberg, now Kaliningrad. Here I reached the conclusion that the ordinary soldier was simply a pawn,

shunted around at the whim of others. Shortly after the annexation of Memelland by Lithuania in January 1923, my mother wrote to me: “You ought not to go to war, as the fifth commandment says, ‘You must not kill.’ The Bible Students [Jehovah’s Witnesses] do not go to war either.” I was puzzled. Who were these Bible Students? While home on leave, I learned of their basic Bible truths. It had a powerful effect on me—my whole religious and political outlook on life took a major turn.

Now I grasped that the end of the present wicked system of things was imminent, making way for God’s Kingdom. Why spend more time trying to help get Germany back on its feet again? Without delay I made arrangements to leave the service, and I returned to my hometown to learn more about these truths. Baptism followed in 1924, and one thing I understood clearly: This step meant serving God, not until a certain date, but forever and in every situation. My heart was full of joy. The highest privilege possible for us feeble humans—serving the Most High and carrying his message to others—had been granted to me.

I was determined to prove myself worthy. We had a large rural area with many scattered settlements and farmhouses to cover. On Sundays it was therefore not unusual for us to walk for from 10 to 12 hours visiting people with the message. Fellow believers having spacious homes offered them for our Christian meetings. There was no journey too far, or stormy weather too bad, to keep us away from these valuable gatherings. They strengthened us for the trialsome times ahead.

Praising Him Even Under Adversity

The Kingdom work began to grow in the Baltic countries, and it now came under the supervision of the Northern European Office of the Watch Tower Society in Denmark. In 1928 I married, and my wife Ruth and I associated with the Hydekrug Congregation. While our brothers in Nazi Germany suffered cruel persecution, we were spared this—until 1939. Early on the morning of March 22, the news broke: “Melland liberated! The Führer is coming!”

The ominous droning of numerous aircraft overhead filled our ears all morning. Hitler’s occupation had begun. The very next day all of Jehovah’s Witnesses had their homes searched, and some Witnesses were arrested. Our literature, even Bibles, was confiscated and burned publicly in the marketplace. No sooner were our activities banned than we began to work underground, circulating literature and visiting interested ones secretly.

At the outbreak of World War II, I was called up for military service. I consistently refused, and the Military Court of the Reich in Berlin imposed the death sentence on April 10, 1940. My wife was fetched from home to persuade me to join the military. She, too, remained unmoved and earned the respect of an elderly officer, who remarked: “I must admit, your attitude is

quite right. War is inhuman.” My wife was left without a breadwinner to support her, our four children, and her aging mother. Did Ruth ever complain? In the few letters she was allowed to write, she encouraged me to remain loyal and not to become weak because of the loved ones I was leaving behind.

In October 1940 my sentence was rescinded. However, I was still kept in custody in various detention centers, finally landing in the concentration camp at Stutthof, near Danzig (today Gdansk). Loyal Witnesses already in the camp, such as Joseph Scharner, Wilhelm Scheider, Herman Raböse, and Hermine Schmidt, were to become my close comrades, and they strengthened my faith.* There, in the midst of 30,000 internees, each doomed and robbed of hope, we were privileged to bring the comfort of Jehovah’s Kingdom.

Grateful for Jehovah’s Goodness

In January 1945, as war on the eastern front got nearer and nearer, the evacuation of the camp began. In Danzig harbor, the ship *Wilhelm Gustloff* was waiting to carry us westward. Arriving too late—our convoy had been bombarded by airplanes—we missed what turned out to be a voyage to disaster, as few survived the sinking of that ship.† We were then kept for a while in a fenced-in barn with about 200 other prisoners. Under unsanitary conditions, I contracted typhoid fever. Then came the order: “Return to the Stutthof camp!” Running a high temperature, I was hardly able to walk, and I made the long way back only with the help of a brother, Hans Deike. It took ten days in the camp’s infirmary for the fever to subside.

April 25, 1945, saw us on our way back

* See *The Watchtower*, March 15, 1968, pages 187-90.

† See *Awake!*, May 22, 1978, pages 16-20.

In Our Next Issue

- **Women in the Workplace**
—Tests and Challenges
- **Divine Peace for Those Taught**
by Jehovah
- **Will You Cling to the Truth?**



Eduard and Ruth Warter today

to the coast. I was still seriously ill, and the sisters had a struggle to keep me on my feet. Nevertheless, some of them were singing our songs. We were loaded onto a simple river barge to begin our perilous voyage. With over 400 people on board, the vessel was rocking severely. In order to keep the barge in trim, prisoners were beaten and forced into the lower cargo-hold. There, people were literally lying on top of one another. The dead were thrown overboard. It was a blessing that our small group of 12 Witnesses was allowed to stay on deck, and we thanked God for that.

Frozen stiff, we landed next morning at Sassnitz on the island of Rügen. Unwilling to receive us, the locals gave us only some fresh water. In the night of April 29/30, our barge grounded on one of the many underwater reefs near the island of Eulenbruch. The towboat had cast our vessel loose in an area infested with mines and had vanished. Was this a way to get rid of us? Hearing the underwater reefs scraping the barge hull, we trusted in God not to desert us.

The coast guard brought us to land in rubber dinghies. Our crew was forced at gunpoint to proceed with the journey on

another vessel. All German ports were occupied by Allied troops, so we bypassed them and finally made land on the Danish island of Møn. Free at last, we asked the onlookers if there were any of Jehovah's Witnesses on the island. Within two hours we were being warmly embraced by two sisters. How the ones standing around were amazed. Once the Watch Tower Society's branch office heard of our arrival, Filip Hoffmann was dispatched to arrange for loving care and attention to be given us. How grateful we were to Jehovah!

God Gives Life and Growth

We quickly recovered from the ordeal and in September were delighted to attend an assembly of Jehovah's Witnesses in Copenhagen. Two young women, a Lett and a Ukrainian, who had learned the truth in the Stutthof camp were baptized. They both returned to the Soviet Union as our spiritual sisters. And God was to give us still further growth!

Memelland was now part of the Soviet Socialist Republic of Lithuania. Contrary to the urgings of Russian refugees, I made my way eastward in June 1946 to rejoin my family. I took with me a heavy bundle of Bible literature. When I crossed the border, the patrols ignored my bundle, paying more attention to the generous quantity of garlic I was carrying. How delighted the local brothers were to receive the precious spiritual food!

I was filled with gratitude to Jehovah for his wonderfully preserving my family through the war and the difficult times afterward so that we could continue our work. We have never ceased praising God!

A Crushing Blow

However, in September 1950 all Witnesses in our area were arrested and transported elsewhere. A number of us were sentenced to between 10 and 25 years in a labor



The group of Witnesses from Stutthof concentration camp after arrival in Denmark in 1945, with Eduard Warter on extreme left, being welcomed by a local brother

camp. All our family members were banished to Siberia for life.*

This was a crushing blow to us, but we quickly came to realize that the Kingdom message had to be spread in this huge country also. It was my privilege, along with about 30 other Witnesses, to preach to the 3,000 internees of the Vorkuta camp in the north of European Russia. Many accepted the truth, were baptized, and continued the work in virgin territories after their release.

After about five years, in the spring of 1957, I was granted permission to move to the Tomsk area, and this reunited our family. Our brothers in Siberia had to work from morning till evening, with no day off. Finally, almost all those banished ones were released, and a large southward migration of German nationals followed. As mentioned in the beginning, we settled in the Central Asian Republic of Kirghiz in

* See *The Watchtower*, April 15, 1956, pages 233-6.

1960. Here, in the town of Kant near Frunze, we found several families of Jehovah's Witnesses who had arrived ahead of us.

The first few years passed peacefully enough. As the waters of truth took effect, a spiritual paradise started to grow here and in other parts of the country. Our active praising of Jehovah, however, did not go unnoticed. The press published libelous articles about us. Leaders of officially registered religions forbade us to visit their "sheep," threatening to take action against us. In 1963 five brothers were suddenly

grasped from our midst and sentenced to from seven to ten years in labor camps. The fearless and uncompromising stand of our brothers in court amazed the public. They saw that there were people who were determined to 'obey God rather than men.' —Acts 5:29.

When I reached the age of retirement, we were told that we would be allowed to emigrate to the Federal Republic of Germany. Before our departure, the brothers and sisters in Kirghiz and South Kazakhstan impressed upon us that we should pass on their tender love and greetings, with Job 32:19-22 and Jeremiah 20:9, 10, to all of Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide. Ruth and I have now lived in Bremerhaven since 1969. Despite advancing age, we continue to praise Jehovah, the Source of life and growth, for his goodness. We confidently look forward to the day when the whole earth will be a literal paradise, and every breathing thing will praise him!—Psalm 150:6.



Making All Things New

"The One seated on the throne said: 'Look! I am making all things new.' Also, he says: 'Write, because these words are faithful and true.'"—REVELATION 21:5.

"THERE is nothing new under the sun." Those are the words of wise King Solomon. Continuing, he asked: "Does anything exist of which one may say: 'See this; it is new'?" (Ecclesiastes 1:9, 10) How would we answer that question today?

² Have not science and technology brought forth many new things during this 20th century? Just look at the world of travel, with its jet airplanes, its high-powered automobiles, and its

bullet trains. Then there are the astounding advances in telecommunications, the use of orbiting satellites, and the launching of spaceships that have actually landed men on the moon. And what of the modern kitchen appliances, refrigerators, and laundry machines that adorn so many homes? Some people may be inclined to say, 'Why, there is everything new under the sun!'

³ But wait a moment! There is also something hideous, most disturbing,

1, 2. (a) What question did Solomon pose three millennia ago? (b) What, today, seems to contradict Solomon's words?

3. What shocking situation has developed down here "under the sun"? (Luke 21:25, 26; Psalm 53:1)

to be seen under the sun. What is that? Why, the earth has become an armed camp! This got started in 1914 when World War I erupted. For the first time, machine guns, airplanes, tanks, and submarines were used in warfare. In less than 30 years World War II followed. It was four times as destructive of life and property as was the first world war. It made appalling use of even more murderous devices—flamethrowers, napalm bombs, and finally the atom bomb—forerunner of the demonic nuclear devices that now threaten the very survival of mankind here on earth.

⁴ Can we truly say, then, that “there is nothing new under the sun”? Yes, we can, for all these productions come within the framework of the material world in which mankind has always lived. Even when man detonates hydrogen-fusion devices, it is nothing new. Hydrogen fusion has been going on within the sun for billions of years. This is the source of the constant blaze of energy that illuminates, warms, and enlivens our earth. Light from the sun also interacts with the chlorophyll in green plants, building the sugars and starches that are the basic food source for a numberless host of living things around us. How grateful we can be that earth’s

4. (a) To what framework did Solomon refer in speaking of “nothing new”? (b) How are God’s wisdom and love apparent in what he has done and will yet do “under the sun”?

What a shocking commentary it is on so-called civilization that the world is now spending on armaments the colossal sum of 1.9 million dollars each minute! This is more than enough to feed, clothe, and shelter all those of the human race who are living in poverty today. On the other hand, the stockpile of megaton bombs could destroy *all humans on earth*—five billion of us—*12 times over*. Yet it is reported that half a million of the world’s best brains are employed in developing even more devastating weapons of destruction.

U.S. Army photo

tion 4:11) There is nothing new in the rising and setting of the sun, in the weather patterns, and in the natural cycle for watering and renewing the earth. And as for the life-style of imperfect mortal man, there is nothing really new, despite changing fashions. Even in affluent societies, life for many becomes repetitious, and at length “wearisome.” In some 70 or 80 years, sin-stained man ‘walks to his long-lasting house’—the grave. As Solomon states it: “That which has come to be, that is what will come to be; and that which has been done, that is what will be done; and so there is nothing new under the sun.”—Ecclesiastes 1:4-9; 12:5.

5. (a) Why was Solomon correct in saying: “There is nothing new under the sun”? (b) How does the life-style of imperfect man bear out Solomon’s words?

all-wise Creator arranged for this controlled, beneficial release of nuclear energy for our earth! (Psalm 104:24) Though ungodly men scheme to use

nuclear devices for mass murder, happily God will “bring to ruin those ruining the earth.”—Revelation 11:18.

⁵ Solomon was correct in saying: “There is nothing new under the sun.” For there is nothing new about the materials, the energy sources, and the natural laws that form the basis for earth’s physical system of things. These have long been part of God’s creation. (Psalm 24:1; Revela-

"A New Creation" Under the Sun

⁶ Truly, in a physical way "there is nothing new under the sun"; nor will Jehovah bring forth new material productions during the present 7,000-year day of resting from his works of creation. But something new *has* appeared under the sun. When? It was in the year 2 B.C.E. that Jehovah's angel appeared suddenly to humble shepherds near Bethlehem to make an astoundingly new announcement. He said: "Look! I am declaring to you good news of a great joy that all the people will have, because there was born to you today a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, in David's city." A multitude of holy angels then joined him in praising God and saying: "Glory in the heights above to God, and upon earth peace among men of goodwill." —Luke 2:8-14.

⁷ At 30 years of age, this Savior was baptized in Jordan's waters. Immediately, another new thing happened under the sun. Luke 3:21, 22 describes it in these words: "As [Jesus] was praying, the heaven was opened up and the holy spirit in bodily shape like a dove came down upon him, and a voice came out of heaven: 'You are my Son, the beloved; I have approved you.'" At that point Jesus became "a new creation," a spirit-begotten Son of God. (2 Corinthians 5:17) During the next three and a half years, Jesus gave a powerful witness to God's Kingdom, gathering his first disciples. Then, in 33 C.E., after his sacrificial death and his resurrection as a spirit, Jesus appeared "before the person of God" to open the way for further marvelous developments down here "un-

6. (a) Why are new material creations not to be expected in the near future? (b) How and when did Jehovah proceed to bring forth something "new under the sun"?

7. (a) What new thing happened at Jesus' baptism? (b) How did Jesus open the way for further developments?

der the sun."—Hebrews 9:24; 1 Peter 3:18.

⁸ On the day of Pentecost in that year, Jesus began to pour out holy spirit upon his faithful disciples, indicating that they had been brought into union with him as sons of God. The apostle Paul speaks of this "new creation" at 2 Corinthians 5:17, 18, saying: "If anyone is in union with Christ, he is a new creation; the old things passed away, look! new things have come into existence. But all things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of the reconciliation."

⁹ The apostle Peter addresses this "new creation," saying: "You are 'a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for special possession, that you should declare abroad the excellencies' of the one that called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." (1 Peter 2:9) While here on earth, the royal priesthood has zealously proclaimed "the magnificent things of God" related to his Kingdom purposes. Those of this "new creation" who finish their earthly course in integrity get resurrected after Jesus comes to Jehovah's temple.—Acts 2:11; Romans 8:14-17; Malachi 3:1, 2.

"The Re-Creation"

¹⁰ However, is this "new creation" starting with Jesus Christ the only "new" thing that appears "under the sun"? Not at all! While still here on earth, Jesus told his disciples: "Truly I say to you, In the re-creation, when the Son of man sits down upon his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also yourselves sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve

8. How was "a new creation" brought forth?

9. What purpose does the "new creation" fulfill?

10. (a) What did Jesus say about a "re-creation"? (b) In what are those of the "new creation" invited to share?

tribes of Israel." (Matthew 19:28) The "little flock" of Jesus' tried and proved disciples—144,000 of them—are thus invited to share with Jesus in his Kingdom and "sit on thrones to judge the twelve tribes of Israel."—Luke 12:32; 22:28-30; Revelation 14:1-5.

¹¹ Who, then, are these "twelve tribes"? The arrangement that Jehovah made for the Atonement Day in ancient Israel provides a clue. Each year, on the tenth day of the seventh month, the high priest was required to sacrifice a bull as a sin-offering "in behalf of himself and his house." This pictured Jesus' sacrifice as applied to "his house" of underpriests. But what of other Israelites? The high priest next drew lots over two goats. One of these he slaughtered as "the goat of the sin offering, which is for the people." After confessing the people's sins over the second goat, he sent it away into the wilderness. The disposal of these two goats thus pictured Jesus' pouring out his lifeblood in sacrifice and his completely carrying away the sins of all mankind other than those of his priestly house.—Leviticus 16:6-10, 15.

¹² "The twelve tribes of Israel" have the same significance at Matthew 19:28. Here the application broadens out beyond Jesus' spirit-begotten underpriests to include all others of mankind. *An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, by W. E. Vine, defines the Greek word here used for "re-creation," *pa-lin-gene-si'a*, as "new birth . . . spiritual regeneration," and adds: "In Matt[hew] 19:28 the word is used, in the Lord's discourse, in the wider sense, of the 'restoration of all things' (Acts 3:21, R.V.), when, as a result of the Second Advent of Christ, Jehovah 'sets

His King upon His holy hill of Zion' (Ps. 2:6) . . . Thereby will be accomplished the deliverance of the world from the power and deception of Satan and from the despotic and antichristian rulers of the nations."

¹³ In line with this, Bible translations here render *pa-lin-gene-si'a* variously as: regeneration, new world, new birth, world born anew, world that is to be, New Creation, new order of life, new age. Do you get the sense of that? "The twelve tribes of Israel," representing all the peoples of mankind, are to be judged by Christ and his loyal underpriests. This is to be in connection with a regeneration, a grand renewal of all that Jehovah has purposed for this earth, down here "under the sun."

"The Times of Restoration"

¹⁴ When does that regeneration take place? At Acts 3:20, 21, Peter speaks of "Jesus, whom heaven, indeed, must hold within itself until the times of restoration of all things of which God spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets of old time." This points to Jesus' waiting at God's right hand in the heavens until "the appointed times of the nations are fulfilled." (Luke 21:24; Psalm 110:1, 2) Then, in 1914, Jehovah does indeed 'install his king upon Zion, his holy mountain.' What restoration then takes place?—Psalm 2:6.

¹⁵ First, a new thing is seen under the sun, in that the remaining faithful underpriests of Christ—the last ones of the "new creation"—are gathered and set to work in 'preaching this good news of the

13. (a) What do various Bible versions indicate as to the meaning of *pa-lin-gene-si'a*? (b) So, what is to happen "under the sun"?

14. (a) According to Acts 3:20, 21, for what must Jesus wait? (b) How and when is Jesus installed as King?

15. (a) What happened "under the sun" following Jesus' enthronement? (b) How have Matthew 25:31-34 and Isaiah 11:6-9 been fulfilled?

11. What two aspects of Jesus' sacrifice were pictured on Atonement Day, and how?

12. How does one dictionary elaborate on the meaning of "the re-creation"?

established Kingdom.' Next, a "great crowd" is assembled "out of all nations" for preservation through "the great tribulation." (Matthew 24:14; Revelation 7: 9, 14) At this present time the enthroned King, Jesus Christ, is separating people one from another, "just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats." "The sheep" are those who show themselves righteously disposed toward the King and his spirit-begotten brothers of the "new creation." These "sheep" are therefore invited to inherit everlasting life in the earthly realm of Jehovah's Kingdom. Already, they enjoy the spiritual paradise restored here on earth.—Matthew 25: 31-34, 46; Isaiah 11:6-9.

¹⁶ The judging of the nations and of "the sheep" at this time is as to worthiness for survival during the "great tribulation." (Matthew 24:21, 22) However, is this the judging referred to in Matthew 19:28? No, for further judging is to be carried out by Christ and his underpriests after that tribulation. It is the judging of the figurative "twelve tribes of Israel," peoples other than the royal priesthood. The number "twelve" indicates a completeness of those of mankind that will be judged. This includes the survivors of "the great tribulation," any offspring they may yet have, and the billions of mankind that will be brought forth on earth in the resurrection.

¹⁷ Concerning this, Paul states at Acts 17:31 that God "has set a day in which he purposes to judge the inhabited earth in righteousness by a man [Christ Jesus] whom he has appointed, and he has furnished a guarantee to all men in that he has resurrected him from the dead." The post-Armageddon "inhabited earth," made

16. (a) What judging is now proceeding? (b) What further judging takes place after Armageddon?

17. Who are then judged, and according to what "deeds"?

up of all mankind then on earth, will not be judged according to past sins committed during the present system of things. Rather, they will be "judged individually according to their deeds" performed in the new earth as they avail themselves of Christ's ransom provision.—Revelation 20:13; Matthew 20:28; 1 John 2:2.

¹⁸ What magnificent things will appear under the sun at that time! The spiritual paradise will expand into a literal paradise, in fulfillment of Jehovah's original purpose toward this earth. Our God tells us that 'the earth is his footstool,' a sanctuary where he should be worshiped, and he also declares: "I shall glorify the very place of my feet." (Isaiah 66:1; 60:13) So here under the sun, earth is to be made a glorious paradise, a garden of delight, in which a perfect, peaceful, and united mankind will forever praise their God and Creator. "Faithful and true" are Jehovah's thrilling words of promise: "Look! I am making all things new"! (Revelation 21:5) And in the eternity ahead, what marvelous new creations may our loving God yet bring forth down here under the sun to delight his human family!

18. (a) As indicated by Isaiah, what will then appear "under the sun"? (b) What words of promise will thus be fulfilled, and what may we expect for the eternity ahead? (Romans 8:21)

How Would You Answer as to Events "Under the Sun"?—

- ☐ In what sense is there "nothing new"?
- ☐ When and how did "a new creation" appear?
- ☐ What does "the re-creation" embrace?
- ☐ How do "the times of restoration" proceed, and with what grand result?

A Brochure With

THE information in the preceding article was presented earth wide during 1986 at the "Divine Peace" District Conventions of Jehovah's Witnesses. Herewith we summarize further interesting comments made by the speaker:

"*Look! I Am Making All Things New.*" That was the title of a booklet published by the Watch Tower Society back in 1959. A booklet of this kind had been requested by missionaries in Japan. A need was felt there for a publication that would present the Kingdom message in a clear, simple manner for the benefit of people not well acquainted with the Bible itself. Under the supervision of the Watch Tower Society, more than 30 missionaries shared in compiling the booklet. Did this new booklet fill the need as it became the principal instrument for starting new studies in Japan?



The results speak for themselves. At the time of the release of the "Look!" booklet, there was a peak of 1,390 Kingdom publishers in Japan. Today, the peak is 114,480 publishers. Almost all of these were introduced to Bible study through the "Look!" booklet. During the past 27 years, more than 8,750,000 copies of this booklet have been distributed in the Japanese language alone. And in the past 20 years, Japan has reported a new peak of Kingdom publishers every month except two. Though there are no doubt other causes contributing to this fine increase, there is no question that using the "Look!" booklet to start Bible studies has been a big factor.

This booklet has now been updated, according to present needs, and was released at the "Divine Peace" conventions as a magazine-size brochure of 32 pages. A new section has been added on the topic "Bad Things—Why Does God Permit Them?" Further, the concluding paragraphs have been rewritten to give the student warm encouragement to associate with Jehovah's organization. Now the publication appears with large, readable type and a number of teaching illustrations. Its beautiful new four-color cover spread is depicted in reduced size on the opposite page.

Is this new brochure, "*Look! I Am Making All Things New!*," to be used only in the Orient? It will no doubt be very effective there. However, it is believed that the "Look!" brochure will be useful also throughout the world field in starting Bible studies. Almost 30 years have passed since the original booklet was produced. During that time, knowledge of the Bible has sunk to a new low, even in lands that claim to be Christian. Instead of hearing from their parents the well-known stories from the Bible, a new generation has grown up with eyes and ears glued to television, absorbing whatever the world has to offer. This, together with other distractions of a pleasure-mad world, has crowded out precious hours that might have been used for spiritual development. The modern generation, whether in Christendom or elsewhere, knows very little about God's Word. It needs the 'milk of the Word,' as set forth plainly in the "Look!" brochure.—Hebrews 5:12.

Worldwide, there are people whose hearts are inclined toward righteousness and who will re-

a New Look

joyce to learn how they may become identified with the "great crowd" that will survive Armageddon. (Revelation 7:9, 14) In our house-to-house service, we may find many who are impressed by the lovely picture-cover of the brochure and by the captivating description of Paradise in the opening paragraphs. On a return visit, we can use the array of scriptures cited in support of those paragraphs to show that this hope is much more than a dream. Then, through a regular Bible study, using the "Look!" brochure, we can help them get started on the way to life. As Jesus said in prayer to his Father: "This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ."—John 17:3.

May all of us make zealous use of the "Look!" brochure in beaming forth Kingdom truth, the

"great crowd" joining with the remaining anointed ones of the royal priesthood in 'letting their light shine before men.' (Matthew 5:16) May the illustrious name of the Sovereign Lord Jehovah be fully sanctified. May it be demonstrated for all time that the promises of Jehovah God, Creator of heaven and earth, are ever "faithful and true." He it is who declares from his throne in heaven: "Look! I am making all things new."—Revelation 21:5.



A Catholic Enjoys It

One of Jehovah's Witnesses had a flat tire in a rural area of Virginia, U.S.A. A house was nearby, and she knocked on the door. The lady of the house let her in to call for road service. Later the Witness sent a thank-you note, enclosing a gift copy of the book *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth*. The following, in part, is the reply she received:

"I shall be very frank and honest with you. I am a Roman Catholic. And whenever anyone comes to my door with Watchtower or any other tracts, I try not to accept them. If they are forced upon me, I throw them into the trash can. I have had Catholicism deeply engrained in me since I was a small child.

"However, I was attracted to your book because it had 'Paradise' within the title and because the reading was clear and easy. The questions at the foot of the pages encouraged reading, and the pictures were attractive to me. I particularly loved page 11 because I am trying to create such a paradise here for the birds and animals. I have deer, rabbits, chipmunks, squirrels, wild turkeys and birds of all kinds. . . .

"You really accomplished something by getting a Catholic to read a book in another religion. Ha! I doubt that I shall ever convert to another religion. But I read the book, and my husband is now reading it. Thanks again!"

