

THE **WATCHTOWER**
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

FEBRUARY 15, 1999

How to
**SUCCEED in
MARRIAGE**



THE WATCHTOWER®

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

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THE PURPOSE OF *THE WATCHTOWER* is to exalt Jehovah God as Sovereign Lord of the universe. It keeps watch on world events as these 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 God's 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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Are You Thinking About MARRIAGE?

If we compare the global divorce phenomenon to an earthquake, the United States would be at the epicenter. In a recent year, more than one million marriages were terminated there—an average of two every minute. But you may well be aware that the United States is hardly alone in its marital misery.

ACCORDING to one study, the divorce rates in Canada, England and Wales, France, Greece, and the Netherlands have more than doubled since 1970.

We have every reason to believe that most couples enter wedlock because they love each other and want to spend the rest of their lives together. Sadly, however, the dream of a happy marriage often proves to be just that—a dream. Upon waking up to reality, many have said that they married too soon or married the wrong person or both.

Why do so many marriages fail? “The main reason is a lack of preparation,” says the author of a book about courtship. She adds: “As I deal with couples in the throes of marital distress two feelings engulf me—compassion and anger. I feel compassion because they have not discovered their dreams for a mutually satisfying relationship. I feel anger because of their ignorance regarding the complexity of the task.”



Indeed, many enter marriage with little or no idea of how to make it succeed. Yet, this is hardly surprising. One educator observed: “How many of our youth go through college studying about the behavior of rats and lizards, but fail to learn about the behavior of two people called husband and wife?”

Are you thinking about marriage—either about a possible future marriage or about that marriage you are in now? If so, you should be aware that a real-life relationship is far different from that depicted in movies, on television shows, and in romance novels. At the same time, the marriage of two mature people who are truly in love may be considered a blessing from God. (Proverbs 18: 22; 19:14) How, then, can you be sure that you are prepared to meet the demands of marriage? What factors should you consider in selecting a mate? Or if you are already married, how can you increase the likelihood of finding lasting happiness in your marriage?

What Is Needed for a SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE?

Would you choose to dive into a river without first learning to swim? Such a foolish act could be harmful—even deadly. Think, though, of how many people jump into marriage with little awareness of how to take on the responsibilities involved.



JESUS said: "Who of you that wants to build a tower does not first sit down and calculate the expense, to see if he has enough to complete it?" (Luke 14:28) What is true of building a tower is also true of building a marriage. Those who want to get married should carefully count the cost of marriage to make sure they can meet the demands.

A Look at Marriage

Having a mate with whom to share life's joys and sorrows is truly a blessing. Marriage can fill a void caused by loneliness or despair. It can satisfy our inborn craving for love, companionship, and intimacy. With good reason, God said after creating Adam: "It is not good for the man to continue by himself. I am going to make a helper for him, as a complement of him."—Genesis 2:18; 24:67; 1 Corinthians 7:9.

Yes, being married can solve some problems. But it will introduce some new ones too. Why? Because marriage is the blending of two distinct personalities that are perhaps compatible but hardly identical. Hence, even well-matched couples will experience occasional conflict. The Christian apostle Paul wrote that those who marry will have "tribulation in their flesh"—or as *The New English Bible* renders it, "pain and grief in this bodily life."—1 Corinthians 7:28.

Was Paul being pessimistic? Not at all! He was simply urging those considering marriage to be realists. The euphoric feeling of being attracted to someone is not an accurate gauge of what married life will be like in the months and years following the wedding day. Each marriage has its own unique challenges and problems. The question is not whether they will arise but how to face them when they do.

Problems give a husband and wife opportunity to show the genuineness of their love for each other. To illustrate: A cruise ship may seem majestic as it sits idle, moored at a pier. Its true seaworthiness, however, is proved at sea—perhaps even amid the crashing waves of a storm. Similarly, the strength of a marriage bond is not solely defined during peaceful moments of romantic calm. At times, it is proved under trialsome circumstances in which a couple weathers storms of adversity.

To do so, a married couple needs commitment, for God purposed that a man would "stick to his wife" and that the two would "become one flesh." (Genesis 2:24) The idea of commitment frightens many people today. Yet, it is only reasonable that two people who truly love each other will want to make a solemn promise to stay together. Commitment accords the marriage dignity. It pro-



vides a basis for confidence that, come what may, a husband and wife will support each other.* If you are not ready for such a commitment, you are not really ready for marriage. (Compare Ecclesiastes 5:4, 5.) Even those who are already married may need to enhance their appreciation of how vital commitment is to an enduring marriage.

A Look at Yourself

No doubt you can list the qualities you would want in a mate. It is much more difficult, however, to look at yourself to determine how you can contribute to a marriage. Self-scrutiny is vital, both before and after taking the vows of wedlock. For example, ask yourself the following questions.

- *Am I willing to make a lifelong commitment to my mate?*—Matthew 19:6.

In the days of the Bible prophet Malachi, many husbands left their mates, perhaps to marry younger women. Jehovah said that his altar was covered with the tears of the abandoned wives, and he condemned men who thus “dealt treacherously” with their mates.—Malachi 2:13-16.

- *If I am thinking about getting mar-*

* The Bible allows only one ground for divorce with the possibility of remarriage, and that is “fornication”—sex relations outside the marriage.—Matthew 19:9.

ried, am I past the youthful age when sexual feelings run quite strong and can distort good judgment?—1 Corinthians 7:36.

“It is very risky to get married too young,” says Nikki, who was 22 when she married. She cautions: “Your feelings, goals, and tastes will continue to change from the time you are in your late teens until you are in your mid-to-late 20’s.” Of course, readiness for marriage cannot be measured

by age alone. Nevertheless, marrying when one is not past the youthful stage when sexual feelings are new and especially strong can distort one’s thinking and blind one to potential problems.

- *What traits do I have that will help me contribute to a successful marriage?*—Galatians 5:22, 23.

The apostle Paul wrote to the Colossians:

“The Best Description of Love I’ve Ever Read”

“How do you know if you’re really in love?” writes Dr. Kevin Leman. “There’s an ancient book that contains a description of love. The book is nearly two thousand years old, but it is still the best description of love I’ve ever read.”

Dr. Leman was referring to the Christian apostle Paul’s words found in the Bible at 1 Corinthians 13:4-8:

“Love is long-suffering and kind. Love is not jealous, it does not brag, does not get puffed up, does not behave indecently, does not look for its own interests, does not become provoked. It does not keep account of the injury. It does not rejoice over unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.”



Even those long married can strengthen their marriage bonds

"Clothe yourselves with the tender affections of compassion, kindness, lowliness of mind, mildness, and long-suffering." (Colossians 3:12) This counsel is appropriate for those who are contemplating marriage as well as for those who are already married.

- *Do I have the maturity needed to support a mate through difficult times?*—Galatians 6:2.

"When problems occur," says one doctor, "the tendency is to blame the mate. *Who* is to blame is not what is most important. Rather, it is how both husband and wife can cooperate to improve the marital relationship." The words of wise King Solomon apply to married couples. "Two are better than one," he wrote, "for if one of them should fall, the other one can raise his partner up. But how will it be with just the one who falls when there is not another to raise him up?"—Ecclesiastes 4:9, 10.

- *Am I generally cheerful and optimistic, or am I predominantly gloomy and negative?*—Proverbs 15:15.

A negative person views each day as bad. Marriage does not miraculously change this attitude! A single person—man or woman—who is largely critical or pessimistic

will simply become a married person who is just as critical or pessimistic. Such a negative outlook can put a terrible strain on a marriage.—Compare Proverbs 21:9.

- *Do I keep calm under pressure, or do I give in to uncontrolled expressions of rage?*—Galatians 5:19, 20.

Christians are commanded to be "slow about wrath." (James 1:19) Before marriage and during marriage, a man or a woman should cultivate the ability to live by this counsel: "Be wrathful, and yet do not sin; let the sun not set with you in a provoked state."—Ephesians 4:26.

A Look at Your Prospective Partner

"The shrewd one considers his steps," states a Bible proverb. (Proverbs 14:15) This is certainly true when selecting a marriage mate. Choosing a marriage mate is one of the most important decisions a man or woman will ever make. Yet, it has been observed that many people spend more time deciding which car to buy or which school to attend than which person to marry.

In the Christian congregation, those who are entrusted with responsibility are "tested as to fitness first." (1 Timothy 3:10) If you are thinking about getting married, you will want to be sure of the "fitness" of the other person. Consider, for example, the following questions. Though they are presented from the standpoint of a woman, many of the principles also apply to a man. And even those who are married can beneficially consider these points.

- *What kind of reputation does he have?*—Philippians 2:19-22.

Proverbs 31:23 describes a husband who is "known in the gates, when he sits down with the older men of the land." The older men of the city sat at the city gates to render judgment. So, evidently, he had a position of public trust. The way a man is viewed by others



How does he treat his parents?

tells something about his reputation. If applicable, consider also the way he is viewed by those under his authority. This may indicate how you, as his mate, will in time come to view him.—Compare 1 Samuel 25:3, 23-25.

• **What kind of morals does he have?**

Godly wisdom is “first of all chaste.” (James 3:17) Is your prospective mate more interested in his own sexual gratification than in his and your standing before God? If he is not putting forth an effort to live by God’s moral standards now, what basis is there for believing that he will do so after marriage?—Genesis 39:7-12.

• **How does he treat me?**—Ephesians 5: 28, 29.

The Bible book of Proverbs tells of a husband who “has put trust” in his wife. Moreover, “he praises her.” (Proverbs 31:11, 28)

He is not obsessively jealous, nor is he unreasonable in his expectations. James wrote that the wisdom from above is “peaceable, reasonable, . . . full of mercy and good fruits.”—James 3:17.

• **How does he treat members of his own family?**—Exodus 20:12.

Respect for parents is not just a requirement for children. The Bible says: “Listen to your father who caused your birth, and do not despise your mother just because she has grown old.” (Proverbs 23:22) Interestingly, Dr. W. Hugh Missildine wrote: “Many marital difficulties and incompatibilities might be avoided—or at least foreseen—if the prospective bride and groom visited one another’s homes casually and observed the relationship between the ‘intended’ and his parents. The way he looks at his parents will be the coloration through which he will see

Emotions Can Be Deceptive

The Shulammite girl of Bible times was evidently well aware of the deceptive power of romantic feelings. When being wooed by powerful King Solomon, she told her girl companions "not to awaken or arouse love in me until it feels inclined." (Song of Solomon 2:7) This wise young woman did not want her friends to pressure her into being ruled by her emotions. This is practical, too, for those considering marriage today. Keep a strong grip on your feelings. If you marry, it should be because you are in love with a person, not merely with the concept of being married.

his spouse. One must ask: 'Do I want to be treated as he treats his parents?' And the way his parents treat him will be a good indication of how he will treat himself and how he will expect you to behave toward him—after the honeymoon."

• *Is he given to fits of anger or abusive speech?*

The Bible counsels: "Let all malicious bitterness and anger and wrath and screaming and abusive speech be taken away from you." (Ephesians 4:31) Paul warned Timothy of some Christians who would be "mentally diseased over questionings and debates about words" and who would give way to "envy, strife, abusive speeches, wicked suspicions, violent disputes about trifles."—1 Timothy 6:4, 5.

In addition, Paul wrote that one who qualifies for special privileges in the congregation should be "not a smiter"—according to the original Greek, "not dealing blows." (1 Timothy 3:3, footnote) He cannot be one who strikes people physically or browbeats them verbally. A person who is prone to become violent in a moment of anger is not a suitable marriage partner.

• *What are his goals?*

Some pursue riches and reap the inevitable consequences. (1 Timothy 6:9, 10) Others drift aimlessly through life with no goals to reach. (Proverbs 6:6-11) A godly man, however, will show the same determination as did Joshua, who said: "As for me and my household, we shall serve Jehovah."—Joshua 24:15.

Rewards and Responsibilities

Marriage is a divine institution. It was authorized and established by Jehovah God. (Genesis 2:22-24) He designed the marital arrangement in order to form a permanent bond between a man and a woman so that they might be mutually helpful to each other. When Bible principles are applied, a husband and wife can expect their lot in life to be a joyful one.—Ecclesiastes 9:7-9.

It must be realized, though, that we are living in "critical times hard to deal with." The Bible foretold that during this period of time, people would be "lovers of themselves, lovers of money, self-assuming, haughty, . . . disloyal, having no natural affection, not open to any agreement, . . . betrayers, headstrong, puffed up with pride." (2 Timothy 3:1-4) These traits can have a potent impact upon one's marriage. Thus, those who are considering getting married should soberly count the cost. And those who are now married should continue to work at improving their union by learning and applying divine guidance found in the Bible.

Yes, those contemplating marriage will do well to look beyond the wedding day. And all should consider not only the act of getting married but also the life of being married. Look to Jehovah for guidance so that you will think realistically rather than just romantically. By doing so, you will be more likely to enjoy a successful marriage.



LARGE FAMILIES UNITED IN GOD'S SERVICE

"SONS ARE AN INHERITANCE FROM JEHOVAH," WROTE THE PSALMIST.

"THE FRUITAGE OF THE BELLY IS A REWARD. LIKE ARROWS IN THE HAND OF A MIGHTY MAN, SO ARE THE SONS OF YOUTH. HAPPY IS THE ABLE-BODIED MAN THAT HAS FILLED HIS QUIVER WITH THEM."—PSALM 127:3-5.

YES, children can be a blessing from Jehovah. And just as an archer finds satisfaction in knowing how to direct the arrows in his quiver, so parents find happiness when they direct their children along the path that leads to everlasting life.—Matthew 7:14.

Long ago, families having their 'quivers filled' with many children were common among God's people. Think, for example, of their years of captivity in Egypt: "The sons of Israel became fruitful and began to swarm; and they kept on multiplying and growing mightier at a very extraordinary rate, so that

the land got to be filled with them." (Exodus 1:7) A comparison of the number of Israelites that entered Egypt with the number that left suggests that families having ten children were *average* in size!

Later, Jesus grew up in a family that might seem large to many today. Jesus was the firstborn, but Joseph and Mary had four other sons and some daughters. (Matthew 13:54-56) That they had so many children likely explains how Mary and Joseph could begin a return journey from Jerusalem without realizing that Jesus was missing from their group.—Luke 2:42-46.

Large Families Today

Today, many Christians decide to limit the size of their families for spiritual, economic, social, and other reasons. Nevertheless, large families remain the norm in many societies. According to *The State of the World's Children 1997*, the region with the highest fertility rate is sub-Saharan Africa. There, the average woman gives birth to six children.

For Christian parents of large families, bringing up their children so that they love Jehovah is not easy, but many are successfully doing so. Success depends on the family's being united in pure worship. The apostle Paul's words to the congregation in Corinth apply with equal force to Christian families today. He wrote: "Now I exhort you, brothers, . . . that you should all speak in agreement, and that there should not be divisions among you, but that you may be fitly united in the same mind and in the same line of thought." (1 Corinthians 1:10) How may such unity be achieved?

Parents Must Be Spiritual People

A key factor is that parents must be fully devoted to God. Consider what Moses said to the Israelites: "Listen, O Israel: Jehovah our God is one Jehovah. And you must love Jehovah your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your vital force. And these words that I am commanding you today must prove to be on your heart; and you must inculcate them in your son and speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk on the road and when you lie down and when you get up."—Deuteronomy 6:4-7.

Notice that Moses pointed out that the

commandments of God needed to be 'on the hearts' of the parents. Only then would the parents be inclined to impart regular spiritual instruction to their children. In fact, when parents are spiritually strong, they are eager to instruct their children in spiritual matters.

To become a spiritual person and to love Jehovah with all one's heart, it is vital to read, meditate on, and apply God's Word regularly. The psalmist wrote that the one who delights in the law of Jehovah and who reads in it "day and night" will "become like a tree planted by streams of water, that gives its own fruit in its season and the foliage of which does not wither, and everything he does will succeed." —Psalm 1:2, 3.



Just as a tree bears good fruit if it is consistently watered, so, too, spiritually nourished families bear godly fruitage, to Jehovah's praise. Typical is the family of Uwadiogwu, who lives in West Africa. Though Uwadiogwu and his wife have eight children, both serve as regular pioneers, or full-time ministers of Jehovah's Witnesses. He says: "Our family has maintained a regular family Bible study for over 20 years. We have taught the children God's Word from when they were infants, not only during our family study but in the ministry and at other times. All our children are proclaimers of the Kingdom good news, and only the youngest, who is six years old, is not yet baptized."

Working as a Team

"By wisdom a household will be built up," says the Bible. (Proverbs 24:3) Within the family, such wisdom produces teamwork.

The “captain” of the family team is the father; he is the God-appointed head of the household. (1 Corinthians 11:3) The inspired apostle Paul stressed the seriousness of the responsibility of headship when he wrote: “If anyone does not provide [both materially and spiritually] for those who are his own, and especially for those who are members of his household, he has disowned the faith and is worse than a person without faith.” —1 Timothy 5:8.

In harmony with this counsel from God’s Word, Christian husbands need to care for the spirituality of their wives. If wives are burdened down with household chores, their spirituality will suffer. In one African land, a newly baptized Christian complained to the elders in his congregation that his wife seemed apathetic about spiritual matters. The elders suggested that his wife needed practical help. So the husband began to help her with household chores. He also spent time helping her to improve her reading and her knowledge of the Bible. She responded well, and now the entire family is united in God’s service.

Fathers also need to concern themselves with the spirituality of their children. Paul wrote: “You, fathers, do not be irritating your children, but go on bringing them up in the discipline and mental-regulating of Jehovah.” (Ephesians 6:4) When parents heed the admonition not to irritate their children, as well as the direction to train them, the children feel that they are part of a family team. As a result, children are likely to help and encourage one another to achieve spiritual goals.

Teamwork involves giving children spiritual responsibilities when they are ready for them. One father, a Christian elder with 11 children, wakes up early in the morning and conducts studies with several of them before he leaves for work. The older ones, after their baptism, take turns helping their

younger brothers and sisters, which includes sharing in teaching them the Bible. The father supervises, commending their efforts. Six of the children are baptized, and the others continue to work toward that goal.

Good Communication, Shared Goals

Vital to united families is loving communication and shared spiritual goals. Gordon, a Christian elder who lives in Nigeria, is the father of seven children ranging from 11 to 27 years of age. Six of them are pioneers, like the parents. The youngest, recently baptized, regularly shares in the disciple-making work with the rest of the family. The two adult sons are ministerial servants in the congregation.

Gordon personally conducted Bible studies with each of his children. Besides that, the family has a comprehensive program of Bible education. Every morning they gather to consider a Bible text and then prepare for the congregation meetings.

One of the goals set for each family member is to read all articles in the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Recently, they added daily Bible reading to their routine. By talking about what they read, family members encourage one another to continue the habit.

The weekly family Bible study is so well established that nobody needs a reminder—everyone looks forward to it. Over the years, the content, structure, and duration of the family study have varied with the ages and needs of the children. The family has drawn close to other faithful servants of God, and this has had a beneficial effect on the children.

As a family, they do things together and set aside time for recreation. Once a week they enjoy a “family evening,” which features quizzes, tasteful jokes, piano playing, storytelling, and general relaxation.

Occasionally, they go to the beach and other places of interest.

Relying on Jehovah

None of the above minimizes the difficulty of rearing large families. "It is a great challenge to be a good father to eight children," said one Christian. "It requires abundant material and spiritual food to sustain them; I must work hard to earn enough money to support them. The older children are in their teens, and all eight attend school. I know that spiritual training is vital, yet some of my children are stubborn and disobedient. They sadden me, but I know I sometimes do things to sadden Jehovah's heart, and he forgives me. So I must patiently continue to correct my children until they come to their senses.

"I try to follow Jehovah's example in that he is patient with us because he desires all to attain to repentance. I study with my family, and some of my children are working toward the goal of baptism. I do not depend on my own strength to achieve results; my power can accomplish little. I try to draw ever closer to Jehovah in prayer and to apply the proverb that says: 'Trust in Jehovah with all your heart and do not lean upon your own understanding. In all your ways take notice of him, and he himself will make your path straight.' Jehovah will help me to accomplish the training of my children."—Proverbs 3:5, 6.

Never Give Up!

Sometimes the training of children may seem to be a thankless task, but do not ever give up! Keep at it! If your children do not respond positively to or appreciate your efforts now, they may do so later. It takes time for a child to grow up to be a Christian bearing the fruitage of the spirit.—Galatians 5:22, 23.

Monica, who lives in Kenya, is one of ten children. She says: "My parents taught us Bi-

ble truth from our infancy. Dad would study the Christian publications with us every week. Because of his work, the study was not always on the same day. Sometimes, as he was coming home from work, he would see us playing outside and tell us that in five minutes we were all to come inside for our Bible study. After our Bible study, we were encouraged to ask questions or discuss any problems.

"He made sure that we associated with godly children. Dad regularly visited the school to ask the teachers about our conduct. On one visit he heard that my three older brothers had fought with other boys and that they were sometimes rude. Dad punished them for misbehaving, but he also took time to explain from the Scriptures why they needed to conduct themselves in a godly way.

"Our parents showed us the benefits of attending meetings by preparing meeting parts with us. We were trained to become ministers by having practice sessions at home. From infancy we accompanied our parents in field service.

"Today, two older brothers are special pioneers, one sister is a regular pioneer, and another sister, who is married and has a family, is a zealous Witness. My two younger sisters, 18 and 16 years old, are baptized publishers. The two younger boys are being trained. I have been serving at the Kenya branch office of Jehovah's Witnesses for three years. I love and appreciate my parents because they are spiritual people; they set a fine example for us."

No matter how many children you have, never give up in helping them along the path to everlasting life. As Jehovah blesses your efforts, you will echo the words of the apostle John about his spiritual children: "No greater cause for thankfulness do I have than these things, that I should be hearing that my children go on walking in the truth."—3 John 4.

CHRIST'S RANSOM

GOD'S WAY OF SALVATION

"God loved the world so much that he gave his only-begotten Son, in order that everyone exercising faith in him might not be destroyed but have everlasting life."—JOHN 3:16.

IMAGINE that you suffer from a disease that will surely claim your life unless you have surgery. How would you feel if the price of the operation was far beyond what you could afford? What if even the combined resources of your family and friends could not pay for it? To be confronted with such a life-threatening dilemma would be frustrating!

² This illustrates a situation that has developed with regard to the human race. Our first parents, Adam and Eve, were created perfect. (Deuteronomy 32:4) They had the prospect of living forever and of fulfilling God's purpose: "Be fruitful and become many and fill the earth and subdue it." (Genesis 1:28) However, Adam and Eve rebelled against their Creator. (Genesis 3:1-6) Their disobedience brought sin not only upon Adam and Eve themselves but also upon their unborn offspring. The faithful man Job later said: "Who can produce someone clean out of someone unclean? There is not one."—Job 14:4.

³ Sin is thus like a disease that has infected each one of us, for the Bible states that "*all* have sinned." This condition has life-threatening consequences. Indeed, "the wages sin pays is death." (Romans 3:23; 6:23) None of us can get around it. All humans

sin, hence, all humans die. As descendants of Adam, we were born into this predicament. (Psalm 51:5) "Through one man," Paul wrote, "sin entered into the world and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men because they had all sinned." (Romans 5:12) But this does not mean that we are without hope for salvation.

Eliminating Sin and Death

⁴ What would it take to eliminate sin and its consequence, death? Clearly, something more than any human can provide. The psalmist lamented: "The payment for a human life is too great. What he could pay would never be enough to keep him from the grave, to let him live forever." (Psalm 49:8, 9, *Today's English Version*) Granted, we may be able to extend our life for a few years by means of a healthful diet and medical care, yet none of us can cure our inherited sinful condition. None of us can reverse the crippling effects of the aging process and restore our body to the perfection that God originally intended for it. Paul was certainly not exaggerating when he wrote that because of Adam's sin, human creation "was subjected to futility"—or as *The Jerusalem Bible* renders it, "was made unable to attain its purpose." (Romans 8:20) Happily, though,

4. Why can humans not on their own eliminate sickness and death?

1, 2. Describe the predicament that has developed concerning the human race.

3. How has death spread to all men?

the Creator has not abandoned us. He has made provision to remove sin and death once and for all. How?

⁵ Jehovah is “a lover of righteousness and justice.” (Psalm 33:5) The Law code that he gave to Israel reflects a keen regard for balance and impartial justice. For example, within this body of laws, we read that ‘life should be given for life.’ In other words, if an Israelite murdered someone, his own life would have to be forfeited in place of the one that he had taken. (Exodus 21:23; Numbers 35:21) Thus the scales of divine justice would be balanced.—Compare Exodus 21:30.

⁶ When Adam sinned, he became a murderer. In what sense? In that he would pass on his sinful condition—and hence death—to all his descendants. It is because of Adam’s disobedience that at this very moment, our bodies are deteriorating, steadily moving toward the grave. (Psalm 90:10) Adam’s sin has an even more serious implication. Remember, what Adam lost for himself and his offspring was not an ordinary life of some 70 or 80 years. He lost perfect life—really, everlasting life. So if ‘life should go for life,’ what type of life would have to be given to satisfy justice in this case? Logically, it would have to be a perfect human life—a life that, like Adam’s, had the potential of producing perfect human offspring. If offered as a sacrifice, a perfect human life would not only balance the scales of justice but also make possible the complete elimination of sin and its consequence, death.

Covering the Cost of Sin

⁷ The price required to redeem us from sin

5. How did the Law given to Israel reflect a keen regard for justice?

6. (a) In what sense could Adam be called a murderer? (b) What type of life did Adam lose, and what kind of sacrifice would be needed to balance the scales of justice?

7. Describe the meaning of the word “ransom.”

is referred to in the Bible as “a ransom.” (Psalm 49:7) In English that term can refer to the payment that a kidnapper demands in exchange for someone he has abducted. Of course, the ransom that Jehovah has provided does not involve any kidnapping. The thought of paying a price remains the same. In fact, the verb form of the Hebrew word translated “ransom” literally means “to cover.” To atone for sin, the ransom must precisely fit that which it is supposed to cover—Adam’s perfect human life.

⁸ This is in harmony with a principle found in the Mosaic Law—the principle of repurchase. If an Israelite fell into poverty and sold himself into slavery to a non-Israelite, a relative could repurchase (or, ransom) him by paying a price that was considered of equal value to the slave. (Leviticus 25:47-49) The Bible says that as imperfect humans we are “slaves to sin.” (Romans 6:6; 7:14, 25) What would it take to repurchase us? As we have seen, the loss of a perfect human life would require the payment of a perfect human life—nothing more, nothing less.

⁹ Of course, we humans are born imperfect. Not one of us is equal to Adam; not one of us can pay the ransom price that justice demands. As mentioned at the outset, it is as if we have a life-threatening disease and cannot afford to pay for the surgery that can cure it. In such a situation, would we not be grateful if someone interceded for us and covered the cost? This is precisely what Jehovah has done! He has made provision to redeem us from sin, once and for all time. Yes, he is willing to give to us that which we could never afford on our own. How? “The gift God gives,” Paul wrote, “is everlasting

8. (a) Describe the principle of repurchase. (b) How does the principle of repurchase relate to us as sinners?

9. How has Jehovah made provision to cover sin?

life by Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23) John described Jesus as “the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29) Let us see how Jehovah used his beloved Son to pay the ransom price.

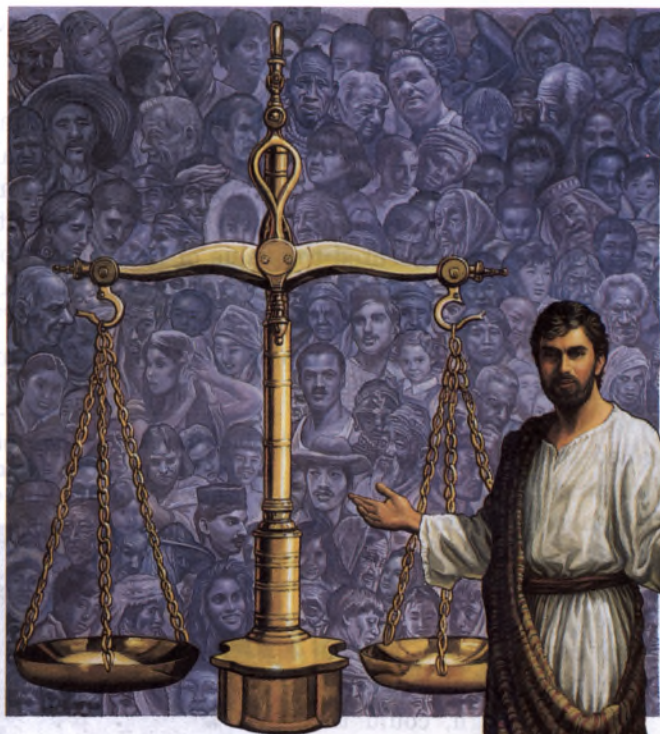
“A Corresponding Ransom”

¹⁰ Right after the rebellion in Eden, Jehovah announced his purpose to produce a “seed,” or offspring, who would ransom mankind from sin. (Genesis 3:15) Through a series of divine revelations, Jehovah identified the family line that would produce this seed. In time, these revelations focused on Joseph and Mary, an engaged couple living in Palestine. In a dream, Joseph was told that Mary was pregnant by holy spirit. The angel said: “She will give birth to a son, and you must call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”—Matthew 1:20, 21.

¹¹ This was by no means an ordinary pregnancy, for Jesus had had a prehuman existence in heaven. (Proverbs 8:22-31; Colossians 1:15) His life had been transferred by Jehovah’s miraculous power to the womb of Mary, making it possible for this beloved Son of God to be born as a human. (John 1:1-3, 14; Philippians 2:6, 7) Jehovah guided matters so that Jesus was not tainted by Adam’s sin. On the contrary, Jesus was born perfect. Thus, he possessed what Adam had lost—perfect human life. Finally, a human who could cover the cost of sin! And that is precisely what Jesus did on Nisan 14, 33 C.E.

10. How did prophecies regarding a “seed” come to focus on Joseph and Mary?

11. (a) How did Jehovah arrange for his Son to be born as a perfect human? (b) Why was Jesus able to provide “a corresponding ransom”?



**Only a perfect human
—the equivalent of
Adam—could balance
the scales of justice**

On that historic day, Jesus allowed himself to be put to death by his opposers, thereby providing “a corresponding ransom.”—1 Timothy 2:6.

The Value of Perfect Human Life

¹² There is a difference between the death of Jesus and that of Adam—a difference that highlights the value of the ransom. Adam’s death was deserved, for he willfully disobeyed his Creator. (Genesis 2:16, 17)

12. (a) Describe the crucial difference between the death of Jesus and that of Adam. (b) How has Jesus become the “Eternal Father” to obedient humans?

In contrast, Jesus' death was wholly undeserved, for "he committed no sin." (1 Peter 2:22) So when Jesus died, he had something of enormous value that the sinner Adam did not possess at his death—the right to perfect human life. Thus, Jesus' death had sacrificial value. Upon ascending to heaven as a spirit person, he presented the value of his sacrifice to Jehovah. (Hebrews 9:24) By doing so, Jesus purchased sinful mankind and became their new Father, a replacement for Adam. (1 Corinthians 15:45)

With good reason, Jesus is called the "Eternal Father." (Isaiah 9:6) Think of what this means! Adam, a sinful father, spread death to all his descendants. Jesus, a perfect Father, uses the value of his sacrifice to bestow eternal life upon obedient humans.

¹³ How, though, could the death of just one man cover the sins of many? (Matthew 20:28) In an article some years ago, we illustrated the ransom this way: "Imagine a large factory with hundreds of employees. A dishonest factory manager bankrupts the business; the factory closes its doors. Hundreds are now out of work and unable to pay their bills. Their marriage mates, children, and, yes, creditors all suffer because of that one man's corruption! Then along comes a wealthy benefactor who pays

13. (a) Illustrate how Jesus canceled the debt incurred by Adam. (b) Why does Jesus' sacrifice not cover the sin of our first parents?

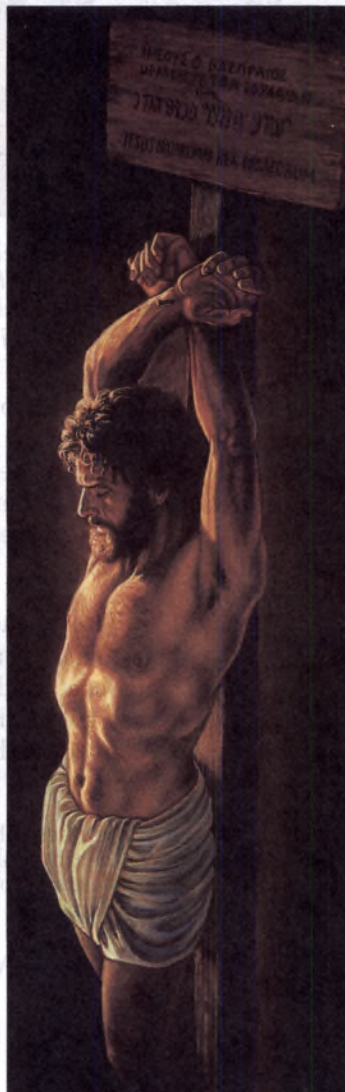
off the company's debt and reopens the factory. The cancellation of that one debt, in turn, brings full relief to the many employees, their families, and the creditors. But does the original manager get to share in the new prosperity? No, he is in prison and thus permanently out of his job! Similarly, the cancellation of Adam's one debt brings benefits to millions of his descendants—but not to Adam."

¹⁴ This is fair. Remember, Adam and Eve were willful sinners. They chose to disobey God. In contrast, we are born in sin. We have no choice. No matter how hard we try, we cannot completely avoid sinning. (1 John 1:8) At times we may feel like Paul, who wrote: "When I wish to do what is right, what is bad is present with me. I really delight in the law of God according to the man I am within, but I behold in my members another law warring against the law of my mind and leading me captive to sin's law that is in my members. Miserable man that I am!"—Romans 7:21-24.

¹⁵ Yet, because of the ransom, we have hope! Jesus is the seed by means of whom, as God promised, "all nations of the earth will certainly bless themselves." (Genesis 22:18; Romans 8:20) Jesus' sacrifice opens the door to marvelous opportunities for

14, 15. Why can Adam and Eve be called willful sinners, and how is our situation different from theirs?

Since Jesus had the right to perfect human life, his death had sacrificial value



those who exercise faith in him. Let us consider some of these.

Benefiting From Christ's Ransom

¹⁶ The Bible writer James acknowledges that "we all stumble many times." (James 3:2) Because of Christ's ransom, however, our errors can be pardoned. John writes: "If anyone does commit a sin, we have a helper with the Father, Jesus Christ, a righteous one. And he is a propitiatory sacrifice for our sins." (1 John 2:1, 2) Of course, we should not take a casual view of sin. (Jude 4; compare 1 Corinthians 9:27.) However, if we err, we can pour out our heart to Jehovah, confident that he is "ready to forgive." (Psalm 86:5; 130:3, 4; Isaiah 1:18; 55:7; Acts 3:19) Thus the ransom enables us to serve God with a clean conscience and makes it possible for us to approach him in prayer through the name of Jesus Christ.—John 14:13, 14; Hebrews 9:14.

¹⁷ Christ's ransom opens the way for the fulfillment of God's purpose—that obedient humans live forever in Paradise on earth. (Psalm 37:29) Paul wrote: "No matter how many the promises of God are, they have become Yes by means of him [Jesus]." (2 Corinthians 1:20) True, death has "ruled as king." (Romans 5:17) The ransom provides a basis for God to wipe out this "last enemy." (1 Corinthians 15:26; Revelation 21:4) Jesus' ransom can even benefit those who have died. "The hour is coming," Jesus said, "in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his [Jesus'] voice and come out."—John 5:28, 29; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22.

¹⁸ Think of how delightful it will be to experience life as it was meant to be—free of

16. Despite our sinful condition, what benefits can we now enjoy because of Jesus' ransom?

17. Because of the ransom, what future blessings are possible?

18. What tragic effect has sin had upon humans, and how will this be reversed in God's new world?

the anxieties that weigh us down today! Sin has put us out of harmony not only with God but also with our own mind, heart, and body. However, the Bible promises that in God's new world, "no resident will say: 'I am sick.'" Yes, physical and emotional illnesses will no longer plague mankind. Why? Isaiah answers: "The people that are dwelling in the land will be those pardoned for their error."—Isaiah 33:24.

The Ransom—An Expression of Love

¹⁹ Love moved Jehovah to send forth his beloved Son. (Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:9) In turn, love moved Jesus to "taste death for every man." (Hebrews 2:9; John 15:13) With good reason, Paul wrote: "The love the Christ has compels us . . . He died for all that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died for them and was raised up." (2 Corinthians 5:14, 15) If we appreciate what Jesus did for us, we will respond. After all, the ransom makes it possible for us to be rescued from death! Surely we would not want to imply by our actions that we esteem the sacrifice of Jesus as of ordinary value.—Hebrews 10:29.

²⁰ How can we demonstrate heartfelt

19. How should we individually respond to Christ's ransom?

20. What are some ways in which we observe Jesus' "word"?

Can You Recall?

- ☐ Why can humans not atone for their sinful condition?
- ☐ In what way is Jesus "a corresponding ransom"?
- ☐ How did Jesus use his right to perfect human life to our advantage?
- ☐ What blessings come to mankind because of Christ's ransom?

appreciation for the ransom? Shortly before his arrest, Jesus stated: "If anyone loves me, he will observe my word." (John 14:23) Jesus' "word" includes his command that we have a zealous share in fulfilling the commission: "Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them." (Matthew 28:19) Obedience to Jesus also requires that we show love for our spiritual brothers.—John 13:34, 35.

²¹ One of the finest ways we can show appreciation for the ransom is by attending the Memorial of Christ's death, which this year

21. Why should we be in attendance at the Memorial celebration on April 1?

will be held on April 1.* This too is part of Jesus' "word," for when instituting this celebration, Jesus commanded his followers: "Keep doing this in remembrance of me." (Luke 22:19) By our attendance at this most important event and by our keen attention to all that Christ commanded, we will demonstrate our firm conviction that the ransom of Jesus is God's way of salvation. Truly, "there is no salvation in anyone else." —Acts 4:12.

* This year, April 1 corresponds to Nisan 14, 33 C.E., the date that Jesus died. Check with Jehovah's Witnesses locally for the time and location of the Memorial celebration.

THE WAY OF LOVE NEVER FAILS

"Keep zealously seeking the greater gifts. And yet I show you a surpassing way."—1 CORINTHIANS 12:31.

HAVE you ever attempted to learn a new language? It is challenging, to say the least! Of course, a young child can learn a language just by being exposed to it. His brain fairly soaks up the sounds and meanings of words, so that before long the tot is expressing himself quite adeptly, perhaps incessantly. Not so with adults. We search a foreign-language dictionary repeatedly, just to master a few basic phrases in a foreign tongue. In time and with enough exposure, though, we start to

1-3. (a) How is learning to express love much like learning a new language? (b) What factors can make learning to express love a challenge?

think in the new language and speaking it becomes easier.

² Learning to express love is much like learning a new language. True, a measure of this divine quality is inherent in humans. (Genesis 1:27; compare 1 John 4:8.) Still, learning to express love takes extraordinary effort—especially today, when natural affection is in such short supply. (2 Timothy 3:1-5) This is sometimes the case right in the family. Yes, many grow up in a harsh environment where loving words are hardly ever expressed—if at all. (Ephesians 4:29-31; 6:4) How, then, can we learn to express love—even if we have rarely experienced it?

Love will help us to overlook the faults of our fellow believers

³ The Bible can help. At 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, Paul provides, not a mechanical definition of what love is, but a vivid description of how this highest form of love acts. A consideration of these verses will help us grasp the nature of this divine quality and better equip us to express it. Let us consider some facets of love as described by Paul. We will group them broadly according to three categories: our conduct in general; then, more specifically, our relationships with others; and, finally, our endurance.

Love Helps Us Conquer Pride

⁴ After his initial comments about love, Paul wrote to the Corinthians: "Love is not jealous." (1 Corinthians 13:4) Jealousy can manifest itself in envious discontent at the good fortune or attainments of others. Such jealousy is destructive—physically, emotionally, and spiritually.—Proverbs 14:30; Romans 13:13; James 3:14-16.

⁵ In view of this, ask yourself, 'Do I become envious when I am seemingly passed over for some theocratic privilege?' If the answer is yes, do not despair. The Bible writer James reminds us that "a tendency to envy" is present in all imperfect humans. (James 4:5) Love for your brother can help you to restore your balance. It can enable

4. The Bible provides what insight into jealousy?
5. How can love help us to conquer jealousy when we are seemingly passed over for some theocratic privilege?



you to rejoice with those who rejoice and not to view it as a personal affront when someone else receives a blessing or a compliment.—Compare 1 Samuel 18:7-9.

⁶ Paul adds that love "does not brag, does not get puffed up." (1 Corinthians 13:4) If we have some talent or ability, there is no need to flaunt it. Evidently, this was a problem with some ambitious men who had slipped into the ancient Corinthian congregation. It may be that they had superior abilities in expounding ideas or a more efficient way of doing things. Their calling attention to themselves may have contributed to splitting the congregation into factions. (1 Corinthians 3:3, 4; 2 Corinthians 12:20) The situation became so severe that Paul later had to chastise the Corinthians for 'putting up with unreasonable persons,' whom Paul critically described as "superfine apostles."—2 Corinthians 11:5, 19, 20.

6. What severe situation developed in the first-century Corinthian congregation?

⁷ A similar situation can develop today. For example, some might have a tendency to boast about their accomplishments in the ministry or their privileges in God's organization. Even if we do have a particular skill or ability that others in the congregation lack, would that give us license to become puffed up? After all, we should use any inherent talents we possess to promote unity—not ourselves.—Matthew 23:12; 1 Peter 5:6.

⁸ Paul wrote that although a congregation has many members, “God compounded the body.” (1 Corinthians 12:19-26) The Greek word translated “compounded” signifies harmonious blending, as in the mixing of colors. So no individual in a congregation should feel puffed up about his abilities and try to dominate over others. Pride and ambition have no place in God's organization.—Proverbs 16:19; 1 Corinthians 14:12; 1 Peter 5:2, 3.

⁹ Love “does not look for its own interests.” (1 Corinthians 13:5) A loving person does not manipulate others in order to get his way. The Bible contains warning examples in this matter. To illustrate: We read of Delilah, Jezebel, and Athaliah—women who manipulated others for their own selfish causes. (Judges 16:16; 1 Kings 21:25; 2 Chronicles 22:10-12) There also was King David's son Absalom. He would approach those who came to Jerusalem for judgment and slyly insinuate that the king's court lacked genuine interest in their problems. Then he would state outright that what the court really needed was a warm-hearted man like him! (2 Samuel 15:2-4) Of

course, Absalom was interested, not in the downtrodden, but only in himself. Acting as a self-appointed king, he swayed the hearts of many. But in time, Absalom met a crushing defeat. At his death, he was not even deemed worthy of a decent burial.—2 Samuel 18:6-17.

¹⁰ This is a warning to Christians today. Whether male or female, we may by nature have persuasive powers. It may be easy for us to get our way, so to speak, by dominating a conversation or by wearing down those who have a different view. If we are truly loving, however, we will keep an eye on the interests of others. (Philippians 2:2-4) We will not take advantage of others or promote questionable ideas because of our experience or our position in God's organization, as if our views are the only ones that carry weight. Rather, we will remember the Bible proverb: “Pride is before a crash, and a haughty spirit before stumbling.”—Proverbs 16:18.

Love Makes for Peaceful Relationships

¹¹ Paul also wrote that love is “kind” and that it “does not behave indecently.” (1 Corinthians 13:4, 5) Yes, love will not allow us to act in a rude, vulgar, or disrespectful manner. Instead, we will take others' feelings into consideration. For example, a loving person will avoid doing things that would disturb the consciences of others. (Compare 1 Corinthians 8:13.) Love “does not rejoice over unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth.” (1 Corinthians 13:6) If we love Jehovah's law, we will not wink at immorality or be entertained by things that

7, 8. Show from the Bible how we can use any inherent talents we possess to promote unity.

9. What warning examples does the Bible provide of individuals who were looking out for their own interests?

10. How can we demonstrate that we are keeping an eye on the interests of others?

11. (a) In what ways can we show love that is both kind and decent? (b) How can we show that we do not rejoice over unrighteousness?

God hates. (Psalm 119:97) Love will help us find joy in things that build up rather than tear down.—Romans 15:2; 1 Corinthians 10:23, 24; 14:26.

¹² Paul writes that love “does not become provoked” (“is not touchy,” *Phillips*). (1 Corinthians 13:5) Granted, it is only normal for us imperfect humans to become agitated or to feel a degree of wrath when someone offends us. However, it would be wrong to harbor prolonged resentment or to continue in a provoked state. (Psalm 4:4; Ephesians 4:26) If left unchecked, even justified anger might cause us to act unwisely, and Jehovah could hold us responsible for this.—Genesis 34:1-31; 49:5-7; Numbers 12:3; 20:10-12; Psalm 106:32, 33.

¹³ Some have allowed the imperfections of others to affect their decision to attend Christian meetings or to share in the field ministry. Previously, many of these put up a hard fight for the faith, perhaps bearing up under family opposition, ridicule from workmates, and the like. They endured such obstacles because they viewed them as tests of integrity, and rightly so. But what happens when a fellow Christian says or does something unloving? Is this not also a test of integrity? Indeed it is, for if we remain in a provoked state, we could “allow place for the Devil.”—Ephesians 4:27.

¹⁴ With good reason, Paul adds that love “does not keep account of the injury.” (1 Corinthians 13:5) Here he uses an accounting term, evidently to suggest the act of inscribing the offense in a ledger so that it will not be forgotten. Is it loving to make a permanent mental record of the hurtful word or

deed, as if we will need to refer to it at some future time? How glad we can be that Jehovah does not scrutinize us in such a merciless manner! (Psalm 130:3) Yes, when we are repentant, he blots out our errors.—Acts 3:19.

¹⁵ We can imitate Jehovah in this regard. We should not be overly sensitive when someone seems to slight us. If we are quick to take offense, we may be hurting ourselves more deeply than the person who offended us ever could. (Ecclesiastes 7:9, 22) Instead, we need to remember that love “believes all things.” (1 Corinthians 13:7) Of course, none of us want to be gullible, but neither should we be unduly suspicious of our brothers’ motives. Wherever possible, let us give one another the benefit of the doubt.—Colossians 3:13.

Love Helps Us to Endure

¹⁶ Paul then tells us that “love is long-suffering.” (1 Corinthians 13:4) It enables us to put up with trialsome conditions, perhaps for an extended period of time. For example, many Christians have for years lived in a religiously divided household. Others are single, not by choice, but because they have been unable to find a suitable mate “in the Lord.” (1 Corinthians 7:39; 2 Corinthians 6:14) Then there are those who battle debilitating health problems. (Galatians 4:13, 14; Philippians 2:25-30) Really, in this imperfect system, no one has a situation in life that does not require some type of endurance.—Matthew 10:22; James 1:12.

¹⁷ Paul assures us that love “bears all things, . . . hopes all things, endures all things.” (1 Corinthians 13:7) Love for Jehovah will enable us to suffer any situation for righteousness’ sake. (Matthew 16:24; 1 Corinthians 10:13) We do not seek

16. In what circumstances can love help us to be long-suffering?

17. What will help us to endure all things?

12, 13. (a) How should we react when someone offends us? (b) Cite Bible examples to show that even justified anger can cause us to act unwisely.
14, 15. (a) What does it mean to “keep account of the injury”? (b) How can we imitate Jehovah in being forgiving?

martyrdom. On the contrary, our aim is to live peaceable, quiet lives. (Romans 12: 18; 1 Thessalonians 4:11, 12) Nevertheless, when tests of faith arise, we gladly endure these as part of the cost of Christian discipleship. (Luke 14:28-33) As we endure, we try to maintain a positive outlook, hoping for the best outcome in the midst of trying situations.

¹⁸ Tribulation is not the only circumstance that calls for endurance. Sometimes, to endure means simply to last, to continue on a set path whether trying situations are present or not. Endurance includes maintaining a good spiritual routine. For example, are you having a meaningful share in the ministry, in accord with your circumstances? Are you reading and meditating on God's Word and communicating with your heavenly Father through prayer? Are you regularly attending congregation meetings, and do you benefit from an interchange of encouragement with your fellow believers? If so, then whether presently in favorable season or in troublesome season, you are enduring. Do not give up, "for in due season we shall reap if we do not tire out."—Galatians 6:9.

Love—"A Surpassing Way"

¹⁹ Paul underscored the importance of ex-

18. How is endurance needed even during favorable season?

19. How is love "a surpassing way"?

Can You Explain?

- ☐ How can love help us to conquer pride?
- ☐ In what ways can love help us to promote peace in the congregation?
- ☐ How can love help us to endure?
- ☐ How is love "a surpassing way"?

pressing love by calling this divine quality "a surpassing way." (1 Corinthians 12: 31) "Surpassing" in what sense? Well, Paul had just enumerated the gifts of the spirit, which were common among first-century Christians. Some were enabled to prophesy, others were empowered to heal sicknesses, many were given the ability to speak in tongues. Astounding gifts, indeed! Yet, Paul told the Corinthians: "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but do not have love, I have become a sounding piece of brass or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophesying and am acquainted with all the sacred secrets and all knowledge, and if I have all the faith so as to transplant mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing." (1 Corinthians 13:1, 2) Yes, even acts that might otherwise be of value become "dead works" if the motive for them is not love for God and for neighbor.—Hebrews 6:1.

²⁰ Jesus gives us another reason why we should cultivate the divine quality of love. "By this all will know that you are my disciples," he said, "if you have love among yourselves." (John 13:35) The word "if" leaves it up to each Christian as to whether he or she will learn to express love. After all, merely dwelling in a foreign country would not in itself force us to learn to speak its language. Nor does simply attending meetings at a Kingdom Hall or associating with fellow Christians automatically teach us to express love. Learning this "language" takes continuous effort.

²¹ At times, you will not measure up to some aspect of love discussed by Paul. But

20. Why is continuous effort needed if we are to cultivate love?

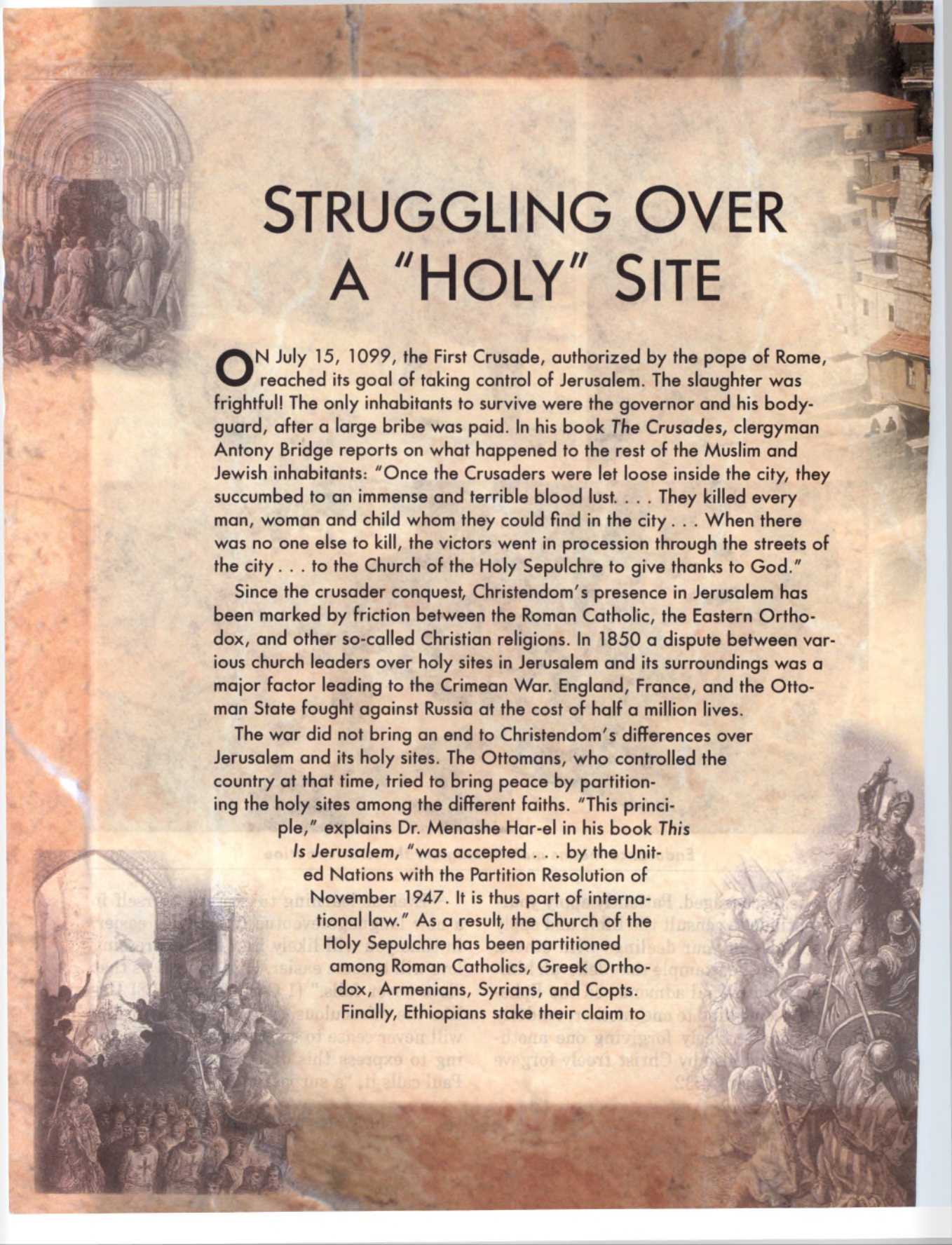
21, 22. (a) How should we react if we do not measure up to some aspect of love discussed by Paul? (b) In what way can it be said that "love never fails"?



Endurance means maintaining our theocratic routine

do not be discouraged. Patiently apply yourself. Continue to consult the Bible and apply its principles in your dealings with others. Never forget the example that Jehovah himself sets for us. Paul admonished the Ephesians: "Become kind to one another, tenderly compassionate, freely forgiving one another just as God also by Christ freely forgave you."—Ephesians 4:32.

²² Even as learning to express yourself in a new language eventually becomes easier, in time you will likely find that expressing love will become easier. Paul assures us that "love never fails." (1 Corinthians 13:8) Unlike the miraculous gifts of the spirit, love will never cease to exist. So continue learning to express this divine quality. It is, as Paul calls it, "a surpassing way."



STRUGGLING OVER A "HOLY" SITE



ON July 15, 1099, the First Crusade, authorized by the pope of Rome, reached its goal of taking control of Jerusalem. The slaughter was frightful! The only inhabitants to survive were the governor and his bodyguard, after a large bribe was paid. In his book *The Crusades*, clergyman Antony Bridge reports on what happened to the rest of the Muslim and Jewish inhabitants: "Once the Crusaders were let loose inside the city, they succumbed to an immense and terrible blood lust. . . . They killed every man, woman and child whom they could find in the city. . . . When there was no one else to kill, the victors went in procession through the streets of the city. . . . to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre to give thanks to God."

Since the crusader conquest, Christendom's presence in Jerusalem has been marked by friction between the Roman Catholic, the Eastern Orthodox, and other so-called Christian religions. In 1850 a dispute between various church leaders over holy sites in Jerusalem and its surroundings was a major factor leading to the Crimean War. England, France, and the Ottoman State fought against Russia at the cost of half a million lives.

The war did not bring an end to Christendom's differences over Jerusalem and its holy sites. The Ottomans, who controlled the country at that time, tried to bring peace by partitioning the holy sites among the different faiths. "This principle," explains Dr. Menashe Har-el in his book *This*

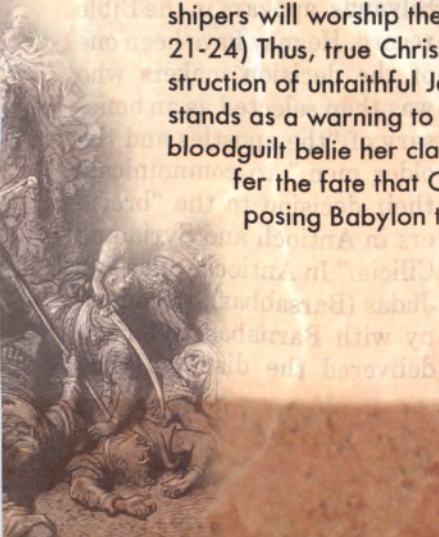
Is Jerusalem, "was accepted . . . by the United Nations with the Partition Resolution of November 1947. It is thus part of international law." As a result, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre has been partitioned among Roman Catholics, Greek Orthodox, Armenians, Syrians, and Copts. Finally, Ethiopians stake their claim to





this church by having some members live in huts on the roof. Many view the Church of the Holy Sepulchre as Christendom's most holy site. It is filled with shrines, images, and icons. Another so-called holy site, Gordon's Calvary, is revered by some Protestants as the supposed location where Jesus was executed and buried.

Long ago Jesus told a woman who believed in holy sites: "The hour is coming when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you people worship the Father. . . . The true worshipers will worship the Father with spirit and truth." (John 4: 21-24) Thus, true Christians do not venerate holy sites. The destruction of unfaithful Jerusalem by the Roman armies in 70 C.E. stands as a warning to Christendom. Her idolatry, divisions, and bloodguilt belie her claim to be Christian. Therefore, she will suffer the fate that God has foretold for all the religions composing Babylon the Great.—Revelation 18:2-8.



Silas

A Source of Encouragement

FROM early in Christian history, the activity of faithful traveling overseers was vital both in encouraging congregations of God's people and in spreading the good news to the most distant parts of the earth. Among the earliest overseers to be appointed was Silas, a prophet and a leading member of the Jerusalem congregation. He played a key role in important developments in the preaching work and was one of the missionaries who first evangelized European territory. What made Silas particularly well qualified to do all of this? And what characteristics of his personality would we do well to imitate?

The Circumcision Issue

When the potentially divisive question of circumcision arose about 49 C.E., the governing body in Jerusalem needed to circulate clear direction among Christians to settle the issue. In these circumstances, Silas, also called Silvanus, appears in the Bible record. He may have been one of the decision makers who was then selected as an emissary of "the apostles and the older men," to communicate their decision to the "brothers in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia." In Antioch, Silas and Judas (Barsabbas), in company with Barnabas and Paul, delivered the dispatch they



carried, evidently relating by word of mouth the events of the Jerusalem meeting, the conclusions reached, and the contents of the letter. They also "encouraged the brothers with many a discourse and strengthened them." The happy outcome was that the Christians in Antioch "rejoiced."—Acts 15:1-32.

Silas thus played a significant part in settling this fundamental issue. But his assignment was not an easy one. There was no way of knowing how the Antioch congregation would react to what had been decided. Thus, "it needed someone with a lot of wisdom and tact to expound what the apostles had written in their letter," notes one commentator. The choice of Silas for this delicate assignment tells us something about the kind of person he must have been. He could be relied upon to represent the governing body's directives faithfully. He must also have been a wise overseer who could exercise a conciliatory influence when the congregation was threatened by controversy.

Travels With Paul

Whether Silas returned to Jerusalem after that mission or not is uncertain. In any case, after a difference between Barnabas and Paul over John Mark, Paul chose Silas, who was in Antioch at that time, for a new journey aimed initially at revisiting cities where Paul had preached during his first missionary tour.—Acts 15:36-41.

The choice of Silas may have been influenced by his positive attitude toward the Gentile mission and by the authority that he as a prophet and a spokesman for the governing body could lend in delivering their decisions to believers in Syria and Cilicia. The results were excellent. The book of Acts relates: "Now as they traveled on through the cities they would deliver to those there for observance the decrees that

had been decided upon by the apostles and older men who were in Jerusalem. Therefore, indeed, the congregations continued to be made firm in the faith and to increase in number from day to day."—Acts 16:4, 5.

As the missionaries traveled on, the holy spirit twice diverted them from their projected route. (Acts 16:6, 7) Timothy was added to the party en route, in Lystra, after unspecified "predictions" concerning him. (1 Timothy 1:18; 4:14) Through a vision to Paul, who also had the gift of prophesying, the traveling companions were directed to sail for Macedonia, in Europe.—Acts 16:9, 10.

Beaten and Imprisoned

In Philippi, "the principal city of the district," Silas went through an unforgettable ordeal. After Paul expelled a spirit of divination from a slave girl, her owners, seeing that they had been deprived of a source of income, dragged Silas and Paul before the city magistrates. As a result, those two underwent the indignity of being presented in public as evildoers, having their outer garments torn off them, and being beaten with rods in the marketplace.—Acts 16:12, 16-22.

Not only were such floggings dreadful punishments, pushing human endurance to the limit but, in the case of Paul and Silas, they were also out of order. Why? Roman laws established that no Roman citizen could be beaten. Paul had Roman citizenship, and likely Silas did too. After "many blows" had been inflicted on them, Paul and Silas were thrown into prison where their feet were secured in stocks. These were "a horrible instrument," explains Gustav Stählin, "in which the prisoners' legs could be divaricated as widely as desired, in such a way as to prevent sleeping." Yet, in the middle of the night, their backs no doubt covered

with painful wounds, "Paul and Silas were praying and praising God with song."—Acts 16:23-25.

This tells us something else about Silas' personality. He was joyful because they were suffering for the sake of Christ's name. (Matthew 5:11, 12; 24:9) That was evidently the same spirit that during the previous Antioch mission had enabled Silas and his companions to be effective in encouraging and strengthening the congregation, causing their fellow Christians to rejoice. The joy of Paul and Silas must have increased when they were miraculously released from prison by an earthquake and were able to help the suicidal jailer and his family exercise faith in God.—Acts 16:26-34.

Neither Paul nor Silas were intimidated by the flogging and imprisonment. When word was sent to have them released, they refused to sneak ashamedly out of Philippi, as the magistrates expected. They stood their ground and turned the tables on those arrogant and arbitrary officials. "They flogged us publicly uncondemned, men who are Romans, and threw us into prison; and are they now throwing us out secretly?" asked Paul. "No, indeed! but let them come themselves and bring us out." Fearful of the conse-

quences, the magistrates found themselves obliged to entreat the two to depart from the city.—Acts 16:35-39.

After thus impressing their rights as Romans on the minds of the authorities, Paul and Silas complied with the magistrates' request—but not before taking leave of their friends. In harmony with what was by now a characteristic of the whole preaching tour, Silas and his partner once again "encouraged" the brothers and then departed.—Acts 16:40.

From Macedonia to Babylon

Not demoralized by what could otherwise have been a negative experience, Paul, Silas, and their companions pressed on to new missionary fields. In Thessalonica they faced difficulties again. Because of Paul's success in his ministry over a period of three Sabbaths, jealous opposers stirred up a mob, making it wise for the missionaries to leave the city by night. They went their way to Beroea. Upon learning of the accomplishments of Paul and his companions in that city, the opposers came all the way from Thessalonica. Paul proceeded alone, while Silas and Timothy remained in Beroea to look after the group of newly interested ones. (Acts 17:1-15) Silas and Timothy rejoined Paul in Corinth, carrying good news and possibly a gift from faithful friends in Macedonia. This must have enabled the needy apostle to discontinue secular work, which he had taken up in the meantime, and with vigor return to full-time preaching. (Acts 18:1-5; 2 Corinthians 11:9) In Corinth, Silas and Timothy are also referred to as evangelizers and as Paul's companions. So it is evident that their activities did not slow down in that city either.—2 Corinthians 1:19.

The use of the pronoun "we" throughout the letters to the Thessalonians—both of

In Our Next Issue

Stepfamilies Can Succeed

Jehovah's Blessing on Our "Land"

**Over 40 Years Under
Communist Ban**



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Paul's Second Missionary Trip

which were written from Corinth in this period—has been taken to mean that Silas and Timothy contributed to the writing. The idea that Silas was engaged in scribal activity, however, is based principally on what Peter says about one of his own letters. Peter says that he wrote his first letter from Babylon “through Silvanus, a faithful brother.” (1 Peter 5:12, 13) While this could simply mean that Silvanus was the bearer, the diversity in style between Peter’s two letters may indicate that he used Silas as a penman to write the first letter but not the second. Thus, another of Silas’ manifold talents and theocratic privileges was perhaps that of being a secretary.

An Example to Be Imitated

When we stand back and look at the things we know that Silas did, his record is impressive. He is an excellent example for modern-day missionaries and traveling overseers. He selflessly covered great distances at considerable cost to himself, not to gain material advantage or prestige, but to help others. His aim was to encourage them with wise and tactful counsel, well-prepared and warm discourses, as well as his zeal in field ministry. Whatever your role is among Jehovah’s organized people, if you similarly strive to be positive—even in the face of adversity—you too will be a source of encouragement to your fellow believers.

"God's Prophetic Word"

District Convention Locations

MAY 21-23

UNIONDALE, NY, Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, 1255 Hempstead Tpk.

MAY 28-30

CHICAGO, IL (TENTATIVE), Comiskey Park, 333 W. 35th St.

LONG BEACH, CA, Long Beach Convention Center Arena, 300 E. Ocean Blvd.

JUNE 4-6

AMARILLO, TX, Civic Center Coliseum, 3rd & Buchanan Sts.

PHILADELPHIA, PA, Veterans Stadium, S. Broad & Pattison Ave.

TOLEDO, OH, University of Toledo - Savage Hall, 2801 W. Bancroft.

TUCSON, AZ, Convention Center, 260 S. Church St.
WINSTON-SALEM, NC, Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum, 2825 University Pkwy.

JUNE 11-13

AMARILLO, TX (Spanish only), Civic Center Coliseum, 3rd & Buchanan Sts.

CHICAGO, IL (TENTATIVE), Comiskey Park, 333 W. 35th St.

COLUMBUS, GA, South Commons Civic Center, 400 4th St.

JACKSON, MS, Mississippi Coliseum, 1207 Mississippi St.

LONG BEACH, CA (Spanish only), Long Beach Convention Center Arena, 300 E. Ocean Blvd.

MEMPHIS, TN, Mid-South Coliseum, Mid-South Fairgrounds, 996 Early Maxwell Blvd.

NEW HAVEN, CT, Veterans Memorial Coliseum, 275 S. Orange St.

SAN DIEGO, CA, Qualcomm Stadium, 1449 Friars Rd.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, Cow Palace, 2600 Geneva Ave.

TUCSON, AZ (Spanish only), Convention Center, 260 S. Church St.

WEST PALM BEACH, FL, Christian Convention Center of Jehovah's Witnesses, 1610 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd.

WINSTON-SALEM, NC, Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum, 2825 University Pkwy.

JUNE 18-20

ALBANY, GA, Civic Center, 100 W. Oglethorpe Ave.

AMARILLO, TX (Spanish only), Civic Center Coliseum, 3rd & Buchanan Sts.

BILLINGS, MT, MetraPark Arena, 308 6th Ave. N.

COLUMBIA, SC, Carolina Coliseum, Assembly & Blossom Sts.

COLUMBUS, GA, South Commons Civic Center, 400 4th St.

FLORENCE, SC, Florence Civic Center, 3300 W. Radio Dr.

JACKSON, MS, Mississippi Coliseum, 1207 Mississippi St.

KANSAS CITY, MO, Kemper Arena, 1800 Genessee St.

LONG BEACH, CA, Long Beach Convention Center Arena, 300 E. Ocean Blvd.

NEW HAVEN, CT, Veterans Memorial Coliseum, 275 S. Orange St.

PONTIAC, MI, Silverdome, 1200 Featherstone Rd.

PORTLAND, ME, Cumberland County Civic Center, One Civic Center Sq.

ROCHESTER, NY, Blue Cross Arena, 100 Exchange Blvd.

ST. PETERSBURG, FL, Bayfront Center, 400 1st St. S.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, Cow Palace, 2600 Geneva Ave.

WEST PALM BEACH, FL, Christian Convention Center of Jehovah's Witnesses, 1610 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd.

JUNE 25-27

ALBANY, GA, Civic Center, 100 W. Oglethorpe Ave.

ALBUQUERQUE, NM, University of New Mexico - University Arena, 1414 University Blvd. SE.

AMHERST, MA, The Mullins Center, University of Massachusetts, Commonwealth Ave.

BAKERSFIELD, CA, Bakersfield Convention Center, 1001 Truxtun Ave.

BEAUMONT, TX (Spanish only), Civic Center Arena, 701 Main St.

COLUMBIA, SC, Carolina Coliseum, Assembly & Blossom Sts.

FLORENCE, SC, Florence Civic Center, 3300 W. Radio Dr.

HAMMOND, LA, Southeastern Louisiana University Center, 700 University Ave.

MADISON, WI, Dane County Memorial Coliseum, 1881 Expo Mall East.

MEMPHIS, TN, Mid-South Coliseum, Mid-South Fairgrounds, 996 Early Maxwell Blvd.

NEW HAVEN, CT, Veterans Memorial Coliseum, 275 S. Orange St.

PHILADELPHIA, PA, Veterans Stadium, S. Broad & Pattison Ave.

PORTLAND, ME, Cumberland County Civic Center, One Civic Center Sq.

RICHMOND, VA, Coliseum, 601 E. Leigh St.

ST. PETERSBURG, FL, Bayfront Center, 400 1st St. S.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (Spanish only), Cow Palace, 2600 Geneva Ave.

TOPEKA, KS, Kansas Expocentre, Landon Arena, One Expocentre Dr.

TUCSON, AZ (Spanish only), Convention Center, 260 S. Church St.

WEST PALM BEACH, FL (Spanish only), Christian Convention Center of Jehovah's Witnesses, 1610 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd.

JULY 2-4

ALBUQUERQUE, NM, University of New Mexico - University Arena, 1414 University Blvd. SE.

AMHERST, MA, The Mullins Center, University of Massachusetts, Commonwealth Ave.

BEAUMONT, TX (Spanish only), Civic Center Arena, 701 Main St.

BIRMINGHAM, AL, Civic Center Coliseum, One Civic Center Plaza.

COLUMBIA, MO, Hearnes Center, 260 Hearnes Ctr.

COLUMBIA, SC (Spanish only), Carolina Coliseum, Assembly & Blossom Sts.

DENVER, CO, McNichols Sports Arena, 1635 Clay St.

FORT WORTH, TX, Fort Worth Convention Center, 1111 Houston St.

HAMMOND, LA, Southeastern Louisiana University Center, 700 University Ave.

JERSEY CITY, NJ (American Sign Language only), Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 2932 Kennedy Blvd.

KENNEWICK, WA, Tri-Cities Coliseum, 7100 W. Quinault.

LINCOLN, NE, Devaney Sports Center, 16th St. & Military Rd.

LONG BEACH, CA, Long Beach Convention Center Arena, 300 E. Ocean Blvd.

MADISON, WI, Dane County Memorial Coliseum, 1881 Expo Mall East.

NEW HAVEN, CT (Spanish only), Veterans Memorial Coliseum, 275 S. Orange St.

OGDEN, UT, Dee Events Center, 4600 South 1400 E.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK, Myriad, One Myriad Gardens.

PEORIA, IL, Peoria Civic Center Arena, 201 SW Jefferson St.

RICHMOND, VA, Coliseum, 601 E. Leigh St.

ROCHESTER, MN, Mayo Civic Center Arena, 30 2nd Ave. SE.

ROCHESTER, NY, Blue Cross Arena, 100 Exchange Blvd.

ST. PETERSBURG, FL, Bayfront Center, 400 1st St. S.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (Spanish only), Cow Palace, 2600 Geneva Ave.

SPRINGFIELD, IL, Prairie Capital Convention Center, One Convention Center Plaza.

SYRACUSE, NY, Onondaga County War Memorial Arena, 515 Montgomery St.

TACOMA, WA, Tacoma Dome, 2727 E. "D" St.

TOLEDO, OH, University of Toledo - Savage Hall, 2801 W. Bancroft.

UNIONDALE, NY, Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, 1255 Hempstead Tpk.

WEST PALM BEACH, FL (Spanish only), Christian Convention Center of Jehovah's Witnesses, 1610 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd.

WILLOUGHBY, OH (Greek only), Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 38025 Vine St.

JULY 9-11

AMHERST, MA, The Mullins Center, University of Massachusetts, Commonwealth Ave.

BEAUMONT, TX (Spanish only), Civic Center Arena, 701 Main St.

CLEVELAND, OH, Cleveland State University Convocation Centre, Prospect & E. 21st Sts.

COLUMBUS, GA, South Commons Civic Center, 400 4th St.

DAYTON, OH, Ervin J. Nutter Center, Wright State University, 3640 Colonel Glen Hwy.

DENVER, CO, McNichols Sports Arena, 1635 Clay St.

ESCONDIDO, CA (American Sign Language only), Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 1873 Iris Ln.

FORT WORTH, TX (Spanish only), Fort Worth Convention Center, 1111 Houston St.

HOUSTON, TX, AstroDome, Loop 610 at Kirby Dr.

HUNTINGTON, WV, Civic Center, 3rd Ave. & 8th St.

HUNTSVILLE, AL, Von Braun Civic Center Arena, 700 Monroe St.

JACKSONVILLE, FL, Memorial Coliseum, Gator Bowl Sports Complex, 1145 E. Adams St.

JERSEY CITY, NJ (French only), Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 2932 Kennedy Blvd.

KENNEWICK, WA, Tri-Cities Coliseum, 7100 W. Quinault.

LONG BEACH, CA (Spanish only), Long Beach Convention Center Arena, 300 E. Ocean Blvd.

NATICK, MA (Portuguese only), Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 85 Bacon St.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK, Myriad, One Myriad Gardens.

RENO, NV, Lawlor Events Center, 15th & Virginia Sts.

RICHMOND, CA (Tagalog only), Richmond Memorial Convention Center Arena, 2544 Barrett Ave.

RICHMOND, VA, Coliseum, 601 E. Leigh St.

ROCHESTER, MN, Mayo Civic Center Arena, 30 2nd Ave. SE.

ST. PETERSBURG, FL (Spanish only), Bayfront Center, 400 1st St. S.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, Cow Palace, 2600 Geneva Ave.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (Vietnamese only), Cow Palace - South Exhibit Hall, 2600 Geneva Ave.

SPRINGFIELD, IL, Prairie Capital Convention Center, One Convention Center Plaza.

SYRACUSE, NY, Onondaga County War Memorial Arena, 515 Montgomery St.

TACOMA, WA, Tacoma Dome, 2727 E. "D" St.

TUCSON, AZ, Convention Center, 260 S. Church St.

UNIONDALE, NY, Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, 1255 Hempstead Tpk.

WEST PALM BEACH, FL (Spanish only), Christian Convention Center of Jehovah's Witnesses, 1610 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd.

JULY 16-18

AMHERST, MA, The Mullins Center, University of Massachusetts, Commonwealth Ave.

BAKERSFIELD, CA, Bakersfield Convention Center, 1001 Truxtun Ave.

BELTON, TX (Spanish only), Bell County Expo Center Arena, 301 W. Loop 121.

BISMARCK, ND, Civic Center Arena, 601 E. Sweet Ave.

CLEVELAND, OH, Cleveland State University Convocation Centre, Prospect & E. 21st Sts.

COLUMBUS, GA, South Commons Civic Center, 400 4th St.

DAYTON, OH, Ervin J. Nutter Center, Wright State University, 3640 Colonel Glen Hwy.

FORT WORTH, TX, Fort Worth Convention Center, 1111 Houston St.

HAMPTON, VA, Coliseum, 1000 Coliseum Dr.

HUNTSVILLE, AL, Von Braun Civic Center Arena, 700 Monroe St.

JACKSONVILLE, FL, Memorial Coliseum, Gator Bowl Sports Complex, 1145 E. Adams St.

JERSEY CITY, NJ (French only), Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 2932 Kennedy Blvd.
JOHNSON CITY, TN, Freedom Hall Civic Center Arena, Liberty Bell Blvd.
KENNEWICK, WA, Tri-Cities Coliseum, 7100 W. Quinault.
LOUISVILLE, KY, Freedom Hall Coliseum, Kentucky Fair & Expo Center, 937 Phillips Ln.
RENO, NV, Lawlor Events Center, 15th & Virginia Sts.
RICHMOND, VA, Coliseum, 601 E. Leigh St.
ROCKFORD, IL, Metrocentre Arena, 300 Elm St.
ST. PETERSBURG, FL (Spanish only), Bayfront Center, 400 1st St.
SAN FRANCISCO, CA (Spanish only), Cow Palace, 2600 Geneva Ave.
TACOMA, WA, Tacoma Dome, 2727 E. "D" St.
TUCSON, AZ, Convention Center, 260 S. Church St.
UNIONDALE, NY (Spanish only), Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, 1255 Hempstead Tpk.
WEST PALM BEACH, FL, Christian Convention Center of Jehovah's Witnesses, 1610 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd.
WOODLAND HILLS, CA (Armenian only), Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 20600 Ventura Blvd.

JULY 23-25

AMHERST, MA, The Mullins Center, University of Massachusetts, Commonwealth Ave.
BAKERSFIELD, CA, Bakersfield Convention Center, 1001 Truxtun Ave.
BELTON, TX (Spanish only), Bell County Expo Center Arena, 301 W. Loop 121.
BILOXI, MS, Mississippi Coast Coliseum, 3800 W. Beach Blvd.
CLEVELAND, OH, Cleveland State University Convocation Centre, Prospect & E. 21st Sts.
FORT WORTH, TX, Fort Worth Convention Center, 1111 Houston St.
HAMPTON, VA, Coliseum, 1000 Coliseum Dr.
JERSEY CITY, NJ (Korean only), Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 2932 Kennedy Blvd.
JOHNSON CITY, TN, Freedom Hall Civic Center Arena, Liberty Bell Blvd.
LONG BEACH, CA (Spanish only), Long Beach Convention Center Arena, 300 E. Ocean Blvd.
RENO, NV, Lawlor Events Center, 15th & Virginia Sts.
ST. PETERSBURG, FL, Bayfront Center, 400 1st St.
SAN DIEGO, CA (Spanish only), Qualcomm Stadium, 9449 Friars Rd.
SAN FRANCISCO, CA (Portuguese sessions also), Cow Palace, 2600 Geneva Ave.
TACOMA, WA, Tacoma Dome, 2727 E. "D" St.
UNIONDALE, NY (Spanish only), Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, 1255 Hempstead Tpk.
WEST PALM BEACH, FL, Christian Convention Center of Jehovah's Witnesses, 1610 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd.
WOODLAND HILLS, CA (Japanese only), Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 20600 Ventura Blvd.

JULY 30-AUGUST 1

BAKERSFIELD, CA (Spanish only), Bakersfield Convention Center, 1001 Truxtun Ave.
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX (Spanish only), Memorial Coliseum, 402 S. Shoreline Blvd.
DAYTON, OH, Ervin J. Nutter Center, Wright State University, 3640 Colonel Glen Hwy.
LONG BEACH, CA, Long Beach Convention Center Arena, 300 E. Ocean Blvd.
ROCHESTER, MN, Mayo Civic Center Arena, 302nd Ave. SE.
ST. PETERSBURG, FL, Bayfront Center, 400 1st St.
SAN FRANCISCO, CA, Cow Palace, 2600 Geneva Ave.
UNIONDALE, NY (Spanish only), Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, 1255 Hempstead Tpk.
WEST PALM BEACH, FL (Spanish only), Christian Convention Center of Jehovah's Witnesses, 1610 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd.

AUGUST 6-8

BAKERSFIELD, CA (Spanish only), Bakersfield Convention Center, 1001 Truxtun Ave.
BATON ROUGE, LA, L.S.U. Assembly Center, Louisiana State University, N. Stadium Dr.
CHICAGO, IL (TENTATIVE) (Spanish only), Comiskey Park, 333 W. 35th St.
CLEVELAND, OH, Cleveland State University Convocation Centre, Prospect & E. 21st Sts.
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX (Spanish only), Memorial Coliseum, 402 S. Shoreline Blvd.
DAYTON, OH, Ervin J. Nutter Center, Wright State University, 3640 Colonel Glen Hwy.
LONG BEACH, CA (Spanish only), Long Beach Convention Center Arena, 300 E. Ocean Blvd.

LONG ISLAND CITY, NY (Japanese only), Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 44-17 Greenpoint Ave.
ROANOKE, VA, Civic Center, 710 Williamson Rd. NE.
ROCHESTER, MN, Mayo Civic Center Arena, 302nd Ave. SE.
UNIONDALE, NY (Polish sessions also), Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, 1255 Hempstead Tpk.
WEST PALM BEACH, FL (Spanish only), Christian Convention Center of Jehovah's Witnesses, 1610 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd.
WOODLAND HILLS, CA (Korean only), Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 20600 Ventura Blvd.
YAKIMA, WA (Spanish only), SunDome, 1301 S. Tenth St.

AUGUST 13-15

BELTON, TX, Bell County Expo Center Arena, 301 W. Loop 121.
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX, Memorial Coliseum, 402 S. Shoreline Blvd.
LONG BEACH, CA (Spanish only), Long Beach Convention Center Arena, 300 E. Ocean Blvd.
LONG ISLAND CITY, NY (Italian only), Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 44-17 Greenpoint Ave.
UNIONDALE, NY, Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, 1255 Hempstead Tpk.
WEST PALM BEACH, FL (Spanish only), Christian Convention Center of Jehovah's Witnesses, 1610 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd.
YAKIMA, WA (Spanish only), SunDome, 1301 S. Tenth St.

AUGUST 20-22

BAKERSFIELD, CA (Spanish only), Bakersfield Convention Center, 1001 Truxtun Ave.
BELTON, TX, Bell County Expo Center Arena, 301 W. Loop 121.
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX, Memorial Coliseum, 402 S. Shoreline Blvd.
FORT WORTH, TX (Spanish only), Fort Worth Convention Center, 1111 Houston St.
LONG BEACH, CA (Spanish only), Long Beach Convention Center Arena, 300 E. Ocean Blvd.
LONG ISLAND CITY, NY (Russian only), Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 44-17 Greenpoint Ave.
WEST PALM BEACH, FL (French only), Christian Convention Center of Jehovah's Witnesses, 1610 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd.

AUGUST 27-29

BAKERSFIELD, CA, Bakersfield Convention Center, 1001 Truxtun Ave.
BELTON, TX, Bell County Expo Center Arena, 301 W. Loop 121.
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX (Spanish only), Memorial Coliseum, 402 S. Shoreline Blvd.
LONG BEACH, CA, Long Beach Convention Center Arena, 300 E. Ocean Blvd.
WEST PALM BEACH, FL, Christian Convention Center of Jehovah's Witnesses, 1610 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd.

SEPTEMBER 3-5

LONG BEACH, CA, Long Beach Convention Center Arena, 300 E. Ocean Blvd.

Britain

JUNE 11-13

JERSEY, C.I., Fort Regent Leisure Centre, St. Helier.

JUNE 18-20

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, Newcastle Arena, Arena Way.
SOUTHAMPTON, Southampton Football Club, The Dell, Milton Rd.

JUNE 25-27

COVENTRY, Highfield Road Stadium, King Richard St.
LONDON (Italian only), Edgware Kingdom Hall Complex, Avon Crescent, NW9.
PLYMOUTH, Plymouth Argyle Football Club, Home Park.

JULY 2-4

DUDLEY (Punjabi only), Assembly Hall, 22 Castle Hill.
LEEDS, Leeds United Football Club, Elland Rd.
MANCHESTER, Manchester Arena, Hunts Bank.

JULY 9-11

CARDIFF, Cardiff City Association Football Club, Ninian Park, Slopier Rd.
LONDON (French only), Edgware Kingdom Hall Complex, Avon Crescent, NW9.
NOTTINGHAM, Nottingham Forest Football Club, City Ground.
WOLVERHAMPTON, Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club, Molineux Grounds, Waterloo Rd.

JULY 16-18

BRIGHTON, The Brighton Centre, Kings Rd.
LONDON (CRYSTAL PALACE), National Sports Centre, Norwood, SE19.
NORWICH, Norwich City Football Club, Carrow Rd.
PERTH, St. Johnstone Football Club, Crief Rd.

JULY 23-25

LONDON (TWICKENHAM) (Greek and Spanish sessions also), Rugby Football Union, Rugby Road, Twickenham, Middx.

Ireland

JULY 16-18

DUBLIN, R.D.S., Simmonscourt, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

Canada

JUNE 11-13

KITCHENER, ONT., Kitchener Memorial Auditorium Complex, 400 East Ave.
PENTICTON, B.C., Penticton Trade & Convention Centre, 273 Power St.
SELKIRK, MAN., Selkirk Recreation Complex, 180 Easton Dr.

JUNE 18-20

CORNWALL, ONT., Ed Lumley Arena, Cornwall Civic Complex, 100 Water St. E.
DARTMOUTH, N.S., Dartmouth Sportsplex, 110 Wyse Rd.

KITCHENER, ONT. (Spanish only), Kitchener Memorial Auditorium Complex, 400 East Ave.
SELKIRK, MAN., Selkirk Recreation Complex, 180 Easton Dr.

VICTORIA, B.C., Esquimalt's Archie Browning Sports Centre (Arena), 1151 Esquimalt Rd.
WINDSOR, ONT., St. Denis Athletic & Community Centre, University of Windsor, 2555 College Ave.

JUNE 25-27

CALGARY, ALTA., Canadian Airlines Saddledome, 555 Saddledome Rise, SE.
CORNWALL, ONT. (French only), Ed Lumley Arena, Cornwall Civic Complex, 100 Water St. E.
GRANDE PRAIRIE, ALTA., Canada Games Arena, 10017 99th Ave.

HAMILTON, ONT. (sign language also; Polish sessions also), Copps Coliseum, 101 York Blvd.
MONCTON, N.B., Coliseum Agrena, Killam Dr.
NORTH BAY, ONT., Memorial Gardens Sports Arena, 100 Chippewa St. E.
VANCOUVER, B.C. (sign language also), Pacific Coliseum, 100 Renfrew St.

JULY 2-4

BRAMPTON, ONT. (Chinese only), Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, Hwy. 7, 1 mile W. of Mississauga Rd.
EDMONTON, ALTA., Northlands Coliseum, 7300 118th Ave.

HAMILTON, ONT. (Greek sessions also), Copps Coliseum, 101 York Blvd.
KAMLOOPS, B.C., Riverside Coliseum, 300 Lorne St.

QUEBEC CITY, QUE. (French only), Colisée de Québec, 250, boul. Wilfrid-Hamel.

REGINA, SASK. (sign language also), The Agri-dome, Exhibition Grounds, Elphinstone St. & Saskatchewan Dr.
SHERBROOKE, QUE. (French only), Palais des sports, 360, rue Parc.

JULY 9-11

BRAMPTON, ONT. (Portuguese only), Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, Hwy. 7, 1 mile W. of Mississauga Rd.

CALGARY, ALTA. (Spanish only), Calgary Kingdom Hall Centre of Jehovah's Witnesses, 2900 14th Ave. NE.

MONTREAL, QUE. (Arabic only), Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 12700, boul. Métropolitain Est, Pointe-aux-Trembles.

MOUNT PEARL, NF.LD., Mount Pearl Glacier, Olympic Dr.

NANAIMO, B.C., Frank Crane Arena, Beban Park Recreation Centre, 2300 Bowen Rd.

SHERBROOKE, QUE. (French only; sign language also), Palais des sports, 360, rue Parc.

JULY 16-18

MONTREAL, QUE. (Italian only), Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 12700, boul. Métropolitain Est, Pointe-aux-Trembles.

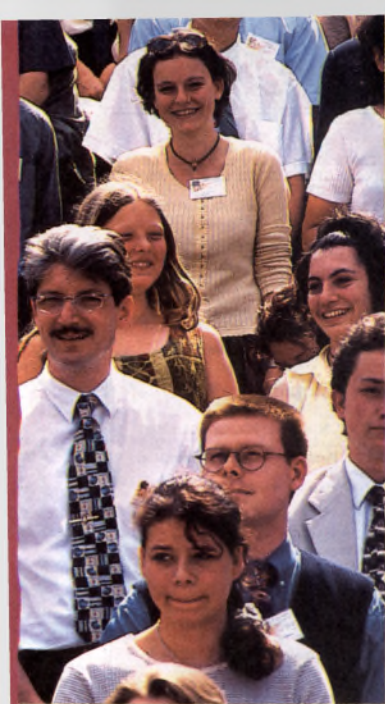
PRINCE GEORGE, B.C., Prince George Multi-plex Arena, 2188 Ospika Blvd.

SHERBROOKE, QUE. (French only), Palais des sports, 360, rue Parc.

JULY 23-25

SHERBROOKE, QUE., Palais des sports, 360, rue Parc.

SURREY, B.C. (Chinese only), Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 15577 82nd Ave.



“I Could Feel the Peaceful Atmosphere”

A GERMAN-SPEAKING man went to a convention organized by Jehovah's Witnesses in order to “spy” on the Witnesses. Why? His goal was to “unmask this sect and save his friends from going astray.” After attending the convention, he wrote the following letter to his friends:

“When I approached the convention site, I wondered if this was the correct place. Not a person was in sight, and no litter or beer cans were on the floor. As I got closer, I saw two gentlemen at the stadium entrance. They greeted me and let me in.

“I expected to hear noise from the thousands who were supposed to be there, but it was very quiet. ‘Well,’ I thought, ‘probably there is just a handful of people scattered over the whole place.’

“When I entered, my attention was immediately captured by a drama that was being enacted on the platform. Only later did I realize that the stadium was filled to capacity with thousands of attentive listeners. I could feel the peaceful atmosphere. What I heard, saw, and felt during the remainder of the convention left a deep impression on me.

“Mingling with the Witnesses, I couldn’t help but notice their happy faces and loving expressions. Suddenly, I could not suppress the thought, ‘These really are God’s people!’”

Instead of ‘saving his friends from going astray,’ the young man asked them to study the Bible with him. The result? Today, he is a Christian elder. He and his family are active in one of the congregations in Zug, Switzerland.