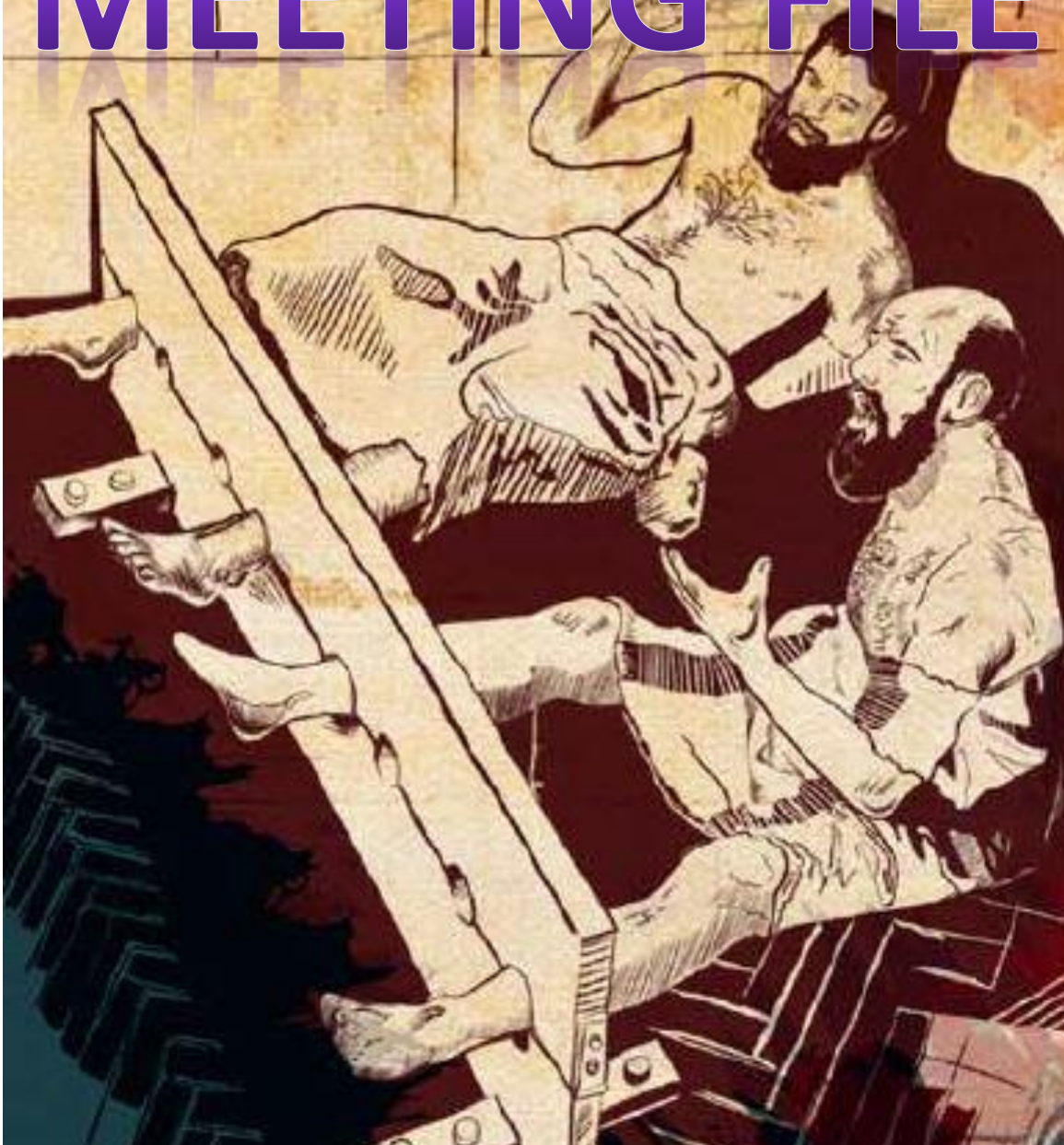


MID-WEEK MEETING FILE



SEPTEMBER 23-27, 2013

(Acts 16:25, 26) But about the middle of the night Paul and Silas were praying and praising God with song; yes, the prisoners were hearing them. ²⁶ Suddenly a great earthquake occurred, so that the foundations of the jail were shaken. Moreover, all the doors were instantly opened, and the bonds of all were loosened.

109 *Hail Jehovah's Firstborn!* (Hebrews 1:6)

1. Hail Jehovah's Firstborn,
 God's duly appointed King.
 He reigns for truth and justice;
 Rich blessings his rule will bring.
With dignity and splendor
 And love for God's great name,
He'll vindicate Jehovah,
 His sov'reignty proclaim.

(CHORUS)

*Hail Jehovah's Firstborn!
All praise God's anointed Son.
Installed upon Mount Zion,
His Kingship has now begun!*

2. Hail Jehovah's Firstborn,
 Who died so that we may live.
 He humbly paid the ransom;
 Our sins God can now forgive.
The bride of Christ awaits him,
 Adorned for him in white.
This marriage in the heavens
 Will prove God's rule is right.

(Chorus)

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 23

Song 109 and Prayer [Hail Jehovah's Firstborn!](#)

□ Congregation Bible Study:

jr chap. 14 ¶14-19 (30 min.)

□ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: 2 Corinthians 8-13 (10 min.)

No. 1: 2 Corinthians 10:1-18 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: If Someone Says, 'I Believe in Reincarnation'—*rs* p. 321 ¶1-3 (5 min.) [w12 12/1 18-20](#)

No. 3: How Are We to Understand 1 Corinthians 10:13? (5 min.) [w12 4/15 27](#); [w10 11/15 27](#)

□ Service Meeting:

Song 43 [Stay Awake, Stand Firm, Grow Mighty](#)

5 min: "I'll Take Your Literature if You Take Mine." Discussion. Invite audience to comment on how they have successfully replied to this suggestion. [km 12/11 p. 2](#)

10 min: How Did We Do Last Year? Talk by the service overseer. Review the congregation's activity during the past service year. Focus on the good things that were accomplished, and give appropriate commendation. Mention one or two aspects of the ministry that the congregation can work on during the coming service year, and offer practical suggestions.

15 min: What Do We Learn? Discussion. Have Acts 16:19-40 read. Consider how this account can help us in our ministry. [bt 129-132](#)

Song 44 and Prayer [Sharing Joyfully in the Harvest](#)

WEEK STARTING SEPTEMBER 30

Song 99 and Prayer

□ Congregation Bible Study:

jr chap. 14 ¶20-25 (30 min.)

□ Theocratic Ministry School:

Bible reading: Galatians 1-6 (10 min.)

No. 1: Galatians 1:18–2:10 (4 min. or less)

No. 2: Why Are There So Many Religions?—*rs* p. 322 ¶1–p. 323 ¶2 (5 min.)

No. 3: Why Jehovah Is Worthy to Receive Worship—Rev. 4:11 (5 min.)

□ Service Meeting:

Song 108

10 min: "Could You Extend an Invitation?" Discussion. Afterward, demonstrate how a study may be started on the first Saturday in October.

10 min: Methods of Preaching the Good News—Witnessing to People of All Languages. Discussion based on the *Organized* book, page 104, paragraph 2, to page 105, paragraph 3. Include a demonstration.

10 min: Never Be Anxious. (Matt. 6:31-33) Discussion based on the *2013 Yearbook*, page 138, paragraph 3, to page 139, paragraph 3. Invite audience to comment on the lessons learned.

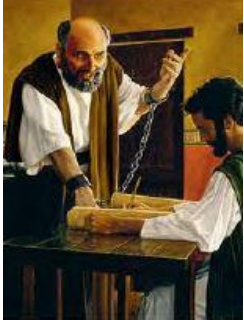
Song 40 and Prayer

"I'll Take Your Literature if You Take Mine"

That is the proposition of some householders. Since we do not exchange our Bible study aids for religious literature that disseminates error, how might we answer tactfully? (Rom. 1:25) We could say: "Thank you for your offer. What does this say about the solution to mankind's problems? [Allow for response. If he invites you to read his literature to find the answer, you can remind him that you did not offer literature without telling him what it contains. Then read or quote Matthew 6:9, 10.] Jesus indicated that God's Kingdom will cause God's will to be done on earth. Therefore, the only religious literature that I read highlights God's Kingdom. May I show you from the Bible some specific things that God's Kingdom will accomplish?"

Could You Extend an Invitation?

In many congregations there are publishers whose share in the ministry is limited because of chronic health problems or advancing age. (2 Cor. 4:16) Could you invite one in such circumstances to accompany you on a Bible study? If the publisher is housebound, perhaps you could even conduct the study at his or her home. Could you occasionally make arrangements to take an infirm publisher with you to a few doors in the house-to-house ministry or on a return visit or two? Many elderly publishers have much experience in the ministry. Therefore, your efforts will not result only in encouragement to them. You too will benefit. (Rom. 1:12) In addition, your efforts to demonstrate love in this way will be rewarded by Jehovah.—Prov. 19:17; 1 John 3:17, 18.



*** w08 7/15 p. 26 Highlights From the Letters to the Corinthians ***

‘Just as they are abounding in everything,’ Paul encourages the Corinthians to ‘abound in giving.’ After answering opposers, he gives final advice to all: “Continue to rejoice, to be readjusted, to be comforted, to think in agreement, to live peaceably.”—2 Cor. 8:7; 13:11.

Scriptural Questions Answered:

11:1, 16; 12:11—Was Paul being unreasonable with the Corinthians? No, he was not. However, he may have appeared to some to be boastful and unreasonable because of what he was compelled to say in defense of his apostleship.

12:1-4—Who “was caught away into paradise”? Since the Bible does not speak of any other person who had such a vision and the passage follows Paul’s defense of his apostleship, he was probably relating his own experience. What the apostle envisioned was likely the spiritual paradise enjoyed by the Christian congregation in “the time of the end.”—Dan. 12:4.

Lessons for Us:

10:13. As a general rule, unless some specific arrangements have been made for us to help where the need is greater, we should work only the territory assigned to our congregation.

13:5. To ‘test whether we are in the faith,’ we have to measure our conduct in the light of what we learn from the Bible. To ‘prove what we ourselves are,’ we have to evaluate the level of our spirituality, including the sharpness of our “perceptive powers” and the extent of our works of faith. (Heb. 5:14; Jas. 1:22-25) By applying Paul’s sound advice, we can keep on walking in the way of the truth.

TMS REVIEW: *** g 5/08 p. 21 Is Philanthropy the Answer? ***

5. How may we be guided by the statement found at 2 Corinthians 9:7?
[Sept. 23, g 5/08 p. 21, box]

[Box/Picture on page 21]

“God Loves a Cheerful Giver”

That statement, found in the Bible at 2 Corinthians 9:7, is a guiding principle for Jehovah’s Witnesses. When giving of their time, energy, and material possessions for the benefit of others, they strive to heed the exhortation: “Love, neither in word nor with the tongue, but in deed and truth.”—1 John 3:18.

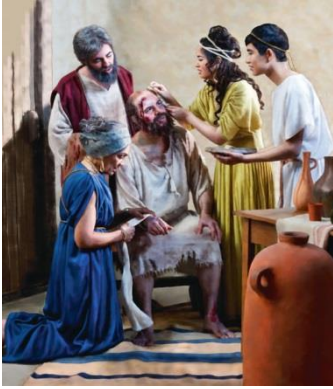
When the need arises, such as when natural disasters strike, the Witnesses view it as a privilege to help those affected. For example, after Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma hit the southern regions of the United States, many thousands of Witness volunteers poured into the affected areas to assist with relief work and reconstruction. Under the

supervision of local relief committees, the volunteers repaired and restored over 5,600 homes of Jehovah’s Witnesses and 90 Kingdom Halls—virtually all that were damaged.

Jehovah’s Witnesses do not tithe or in any other way solicit funds. Their work is supported entirely by voluntary contributions.—Matthew 6:3, 4; 2 Corinthians 8:12.

*** w12 5/15 p. 26 par. 17 Are You Reflecting the Glory of Jehovah? ***

¹⁷ The world in general is not conscious of the seriousness of sin, but we are. This makes us aware of the need to fight against our sinful inclinations. Acknowledging our sinful nature allows us to train our conscience so that it will move us to act properly when an urge to sin begins to develop in our mind and heart. (Rom. 7:22, 23) True, we may be weak, but God can strengthen us to do what is right in any situation.—2 Cor. 12:10.



*** w12 10/15 p. 8 par. 7 Meeting Today's Adversities With Courage ***

⁷ Consider, too, the apostle Paul's example. He experienced 'dangers in the city, in the wilderness, and at sea.' He speaks of 'hunger and thirst, cold and nakedness.' Paul also mentions spending 'a night and a day in the deep,' likely because of one of the shipwrecks that he went through. (2 Cor. 11:23-27) Despite all of that, note the attitude he expressed after he had faced death for serving God: "This was that we might have our trust, not in ourselves, but in the God who raises up the dead. From such a great thing as death he did rescue us and will rescue us." (2 Cor. 1:8-10) Not many people have had as many bad experiences as Paul did. Nevertheless, many of us can relate to his feelings and can take comfort from his courageous example.

*** w12 10/15 p. 31 par. 14 Let Your Yes Mean Yes ***

¹⁴ Whether you are newly baptized or have been serving God for decades, you need to examine yourself periodically and ask questions like these: 'In imitation of Jesus Christ, am I continuing to be true to my most important Yes? Am I continuing to obey Jesus by making the preaching and disciple-making work the main focus of my life?'—**Read 2 Corinthians 13:5.**

*** w12 12/1 p. 5 The Joy of Giving ***



"Let each one do just as he has resolved in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7) The essence of Paul's counsel is that "nothing is ever to be given 'from compulsion,' from a feeling that one is forced to give," explains one Bible commentary. Being "a cheerful giver" rules out the feeling of being obligated to give a specific item to a specific person at a specific time—the way Christmas gift-giving often turns out to be.

"If the readiness is there first, it is especially acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what a person does not have." (2 Corinthians 8:12) God does not require Christians to go into debt to pay for expensive gifts. Rather, when a person gives 'according to what he has,' his gifts are not merely tolerable but "especially acceptable." What a refreshing contrast to the "buy now, pay later" message

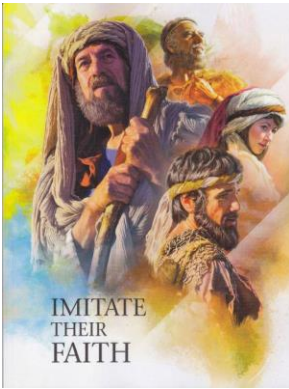
of advertisers during the holidays!

*** w11 1/15 pp. 23-24 par. 10 Empowered to Fight Temptation and Cope With Discouragement ***

¹⁰ There is something else to remember about the Devil's temptations. Satan approached Jesus after He had been fasting for 40 days in the wilderness. No doubt the Devil thought that this was a particularly "convenient time" to test Jesus' integrity. (Luke 4:13) Satan looks for convenient times to test our integrity too. It is vital, therefore, that we keep ourselves spiritually strong. Satan often attacks when he perceives that his target is at its weakest point. So whenever we feel tired or discouraged, we should be more determined than ever to petition Jehovah for his protective help and holy spirit.—**2 Cor. 12:8-10.**

*** km 10/12 p. 6 par. 5 How to Benefit From Your Field Service Group ***

⁵ Although the Congregation Book Study arrangement has ended, Jehovah continues to provide everything we need to do his will. (Heb. 13:20, 21) Under Jehovah's care, we lack nothing. (Ps. 23:1) Many blessings are available through our field service group. If we take the initiative and 'sow bountifully,' we will "reap bountifully."—**2 Cor. 9:6.**



*** w11 1/15 p. 32 Dwell on What Jehovah Has Done for You ***

What else has Jehovah done for us? He has made it possible for honesthearted ones to move out of the wicked world, figuratively speaking, and into the spiritual paradise that he has created. (2 Cor. 12:1-4) Take time to reflect on some of the features of that paradise that are within our easy reach. For instance, take a look at your personal library or at the one in the Kingdom Hall. Page through the *Watch Tower Publications Index*, or browse through *Watchtower Library*. Switch on a recording of a Bible drama. Relive in your mind the sounds and images of a recent convention. In addition, think about the wholesome association we enjoy with our Christian brothers and sisters. How generous Jehovah has been in providing us with abundant spiritual food and a loving brotherhood—a spiritual paradise indeed!

*** km 12/12 p. 1 par. 3 “Be Peaceable With All Men” ***

³ **Demonstrate Respect:** Many in the territory have strongly held beliefs. (2 Cor. 10:4) They have a right to choose whether they will listen or not. Never would we want to belittle a householder’s beliefs or convey an attitude of superiority. If we are asked to leave, we should respectfully comply.

*** km 3/11 p. 3 par. 4 Were You Once a Regular Pioneer? ***

⁴ Do not be discouraged if your present circumstances do not allow you to start pioneering again. Your readiness to do so pleases Jehovah. (2 Cor. 8:12) Use the skills you acquired as a pioneer in your present ministry. Make your desire a matter of prayer, and be alert for opportunities to adjust your circumstances. (1 John 5:14) Perhaps, in time, Jehovah will open to you “a large door that leads to activity” so that you can once again experience the joys of regular pioneering!—1 Cor. 16:9.

*** km 12/11 p. 2 Question Box ***

Similarly, the amount of literature a publisher obtains from the literature counter should be based on what the publisher needs in order to carry out his ministry, not on his ability to donate. Donations are not to pay for literature but to support *all* aspects of our worldwide preaching activity. Regardless of our financial means, appreciation will move us to give generously out of our want, not out of our surplus, to support Kingdom interests. (Mark 12:41-44; 2 Cor. 9:7) It will also prompt us to take only the literature that we need, thus not wasting theocratic resources.

*** km 6/10 p. 1 par. 2 Is Your Eye Simple? ***

² **Need for Self-Examination:** Our perception can be distorted by what the advertising media tells us we need or by what others have. Before pursuing an endeavor or a purchase that will require an investment of considerable time, money, or energy, it would be good to “calculate the expense” by asking ourselves, ‘Will this improve my service to Jehovah or hinder it?’ (Luke 14:28; Phil. 1:9-11) It is also wise to consider periodically how we could further simplify our life so as to do more in the ministry.—2 Cor. 13:5; Eph. 5:10.

*** km 11/09 p. 2 par. 4 “Be Aglow With the Spirit” ***

⁴ Fiery zeal for Kingdom preaching often generates greater zeal among fellow Christians. (2 Cor. 9:2) In the territory, individuals are more likely to respond to a message that is presented with enthusiasm and conviction. Zeal, however, must always be accompanied by tact and mildness. (Titus 3:2) At all times, we seek to dignify the householder and respect his freedom of choice.



(Acts 16:19-40) Well, when her masters saw that their hope of gain had left, they laid hold of Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the rulers,²⁰ and, leading them up to the civil magistrates, they said: “These men are disturbing our city very much, they being Jews,²¹ and they are publishing customs that it is not lawful for us to take up or practice, seeing we are Romans.”²² And the crowd rose up together against them; and the civil magistrates, after tearing the outer garments off them, gave the command to beat them with rods.²³ After they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them securely.²⁴ Because he got such an order, he threw them into the inner prison and made their feet fast in the stocks.²⁵ But about the middle of the night Paul and Silas were praying and praising God with song; yes, the prisoners were hearing them.²⁶ Suddenly a great earthquake occurred, so that the foundations of the jail were shaken. Moreover, all the doors were instantly opened, and the bonds of all were loosened.²⁷ The jailer, being awakened out of sleep and seeing the prison doors were open, drew his sword and was about to do away with himself, imagining that the prisoners had escaped.²⁸ But Paul called out with a loud voice, saying: “Do not hurt yourself, for we are all here!”²⁹ So he asked for lights and leaped in and, seized with trembling, he fell down before Paul and Silas.³⁰ And he brought them outside and said: “Sirs, what must I do to get saved?”³¹ They said: “Believe on

the Lord Jesus and you will get saved, you and your household.”³² And they spoke the word of Jehovah to him together with all those in his house.³³ And he took them along in that hour of the night and bathed their stripes; and, one and all, he and his were baptized without delay.³⁴ And he brought them into his house and set a table before them, and he rejoiced greatly with all his household now that he had believed God.³⁵ When it became day, the civil magistrates dispatched the constables to say: “Release those men.”³⁶ So the jailer reported their words to Paul: “The civil magistrates have dispatched men that YOU [two] might be released. Now, therefore, come out and go YOUR way in peace.”³⁷ But Paul said to them: “They flogged us publicly uncondemned, men who are Romans, and threw us into prison; and are they now throwing us out secretly? No, indeed! but let them come themselves and bring us out.”³⁸ So the constables reported these sayings to the civil magistrates. These grew fearful when they heard that the men were Romans.³⁹ Consequently they came and entreated them and, after bringing them out, they requested them to depart from the city.⁴⁰ But they came out of the prison and went to the home of Lyd’i-a, and when they saw the brothers they encouraged them and departed.

*** w12 3/15 pp. 13-14 par. 19 Help People to “Awake From Sleep” ***

¹⁹ Naturally, we would like to help our relatives to accept the good news. (Josh. 2:13; Acts 10:24, 48; 16:31, 32) If our initial effort is rebuffed, that could dampen our enthusiasm for trying again. We might imagine that there is little we can do or say that will change their attitude. Still, events may cause a change in your relatives’ life or viewpoint. Or you may have improved in your ability to explain the truth, so that you might now have a different result.

*** km 8/09 p. 3 par. 2 Meet the Challenge of Witnessing to Men ***

² **Search for Men:** When a family head accepts the truth, he often influences others in the family to join him in pure worship. For example, while in prison for their preaching, Paul and Silas witnessed to a jailer. The man and his entire household were baptized. (Acts 16:25-34)

103:12, 13) When a person dies, nothing survives. Death is like a deep, dreamless sleep. There will be a resurrection of the dead. This is not a reincarnation but a bringing back to life of the same personality. (Acts 24:15) For most people, the resurrection will be to life on earth. It will take place after God brings the present wicked system to its end. Sickness, suffering, even the necessity to die, will become things of the past. (Dan. 2:44; Rev. 21:3, 4) Does such a hope sound like something about which you would like to learn more, to examine the reasons for confidence in it?

If Someone Says—

‘I believe in reincarnation’

You might reply: ‘You hope that it will eventually result in a better life, is that right? . . . Tell me, would you like to live in a world like the one described here at Revelation 21:1-5?’

Or you could say: ‘I appreciate your telling me that. May I ask, Is this something that you have always believed? . . . What was it that made you leave behind your former beliefs?’ (Then perhaps use the ideas under the heading on page 320.)

Another possibility: ‘I have enjoyed conversations with others who share that belief. May I ask, Why do you feel that reincarnation is needed?’ **Then perhaps add:** (1) ‘Do you remember all the details of the earlier lives you believe you had? . . . But that would be necessary if a person were to correct his former errors and improve, would it not?’ (2) If the person says that it is a kindness that we forget, you might ask: ‘But do you view a bad memory as an advantage to a person in everyday life? Then, by forgetting every 70 years or so everything we have learned, would we be helped to improve our lot?’ (3) If the person says that only the better people are born again as humans, you might ask: ‘Why is it, then, that world conditions have continued to get worse? . . . The Bible shows how real improvement will be made in our day. (Dan. 2:44)’

43 *Stay Awake, Stand Firm, Grow Mighty* (1 Corinthians 16:13)

1. Stay awake, stand firm, grow mighty,
Be determined to endure.
Carry on as men of courage,
For the victory is sure.
We obey Christ Jesus' clear command,
Under him we firmly take our stand.

(CHORUS)

*Stay awake, stand firm, and grow mighty!
Carry on right to the end!*

2. Stay awake, and keep your senses,
Always ready to obey.
Stay alert to Christ's direction
Through his faithful slave today.
Heed the counsel of the older men,
Who protect his sheep and truth defend.

(Chorus)

3. Stay awake, remain united
As the good news we defend.
Though our enemies will fight it,
We will preach until the end.
Join the shout of praise throughout the land.
Look! Jehovah's day is soon at hand!

(Chorus)

***** w12 8/1 p. 29 Champions of the Truth *****

Acts 16:25 relates: “About the middle of the night Paul and Silas were praying and praising God with song; yes, the prisoners were hearing them.” Note this detail: They did not just pray, they sang. Their singing was loud enough for other prisoners to hear. Most of us, Brother Morris commented, do not have trained voices, but we should not shy away from singing, especially when going through a crisis. Brother Morris concluded by reading the words of “Enduring to the End,” Song number 135 in the songbook *Sing to Jehovah*.

***** km 1/09 p. 1 par. 2 How Will They Hear? *****

² **Facing Opposition:** For the sake of those willing to hear the Kingdom message, we must not be deterred. Philippi was the first city in Europe to hear the apostle Paul preach the good news. When false accusations were leveled against him and Silas, both were beaten with rods and thrown into prison. (Acts 16:16-24) However, that painful experience did not cause Paul to shrink back in fear. When he visited Thessalonica, the next city on his missionary tour, he ‘mustered up boldness by means of God.’ (1 Thess. 2:2) Does not Paul’s example illustrate the reason for our ‘not giving up’?—Gal. 6:9.

***** km 4/05 p. 3 par. 5 All Sorts of Men Will Be Saved *****

⁵ The apostle Paul was stoned, beaten, and imprisoned. (Acts 14:19; 16:22, 23) Did such harsh experiences cause him to become bitter and to conclude that he was wasting his time among certain nations and ethnic groups? Not at all. He knew that honesthearted individuals could be found among all ethnic groups, and he was determined to find them. Is that how we view those in our territory who are from different backgrounds and cultures?

***** km 2/00 pp. 3-4 par. 7 Preaching the Good News With Strong Conviction *****

⁷ The very lives of Paul and his traveling companions testified that they had God’s spirit upon them and that they wholeheartedly believed in what they were preaching. Before coming to Thessalonica, Paul and Silas were insolently treated at Philippi. Without a trial, they were beaten, jailed, and confined in stocks. This trying experience, however, did not dampen their zeal for the good news. Divine intervention effected their release, led to the conversion of the jailer and his household, and made the way for these brothers to continue in their ministry.—Acts 16:19-34.

***** km 2/00 pp. 4-5 pars. 13-14 Preaching the Good News With Strong Conviction *****

¹³ **Never Give Up Under Trial:** Conviction is also needed when we meet with various trials. (1 Pet. 1:6, 7) Jesus made clear to his disciples that if they followed him, they would be “objects of hatred by all the nations.” (Matt. 24:9) Paul and Silas experienced this when in Philippi. The account in Acts chapter 16 says that Paul and Silas were thrown into the inner prison and confined in stocks. Generally, the main prison was a kind of court or vestibule around the edge of which were cells that had the advantage of light and air. The inner prison, however, had no provision for light and had limited ventilation. Paul and Silas had to deal with the darkness, heat, and stench of this miserable place of confinement. Can you imagine the pain they must have felt while being confined in stocks for hours with their backs raw and bleeding from the scourging?

¹⁴ Despite these trials, Paul and Silas remained faithful. They manifested heartfelt conviction, strengthening them to serve Jehovah regardless of the test. Their conviction is highlighted in verse 25 of chapter 16, where it says that Paul and Silas were “praying and praising God with song.” In fact, although they were in the inner prison, they were so sure of having God’s approval that they sang loud enough to be heard by the other prisoners! We must have similar conviction today when facing tests of our faith.

44 *Sharing Joyfully in the Harvest* **(Matthew 13:1-23)**

1. We live in the time of the harvest,
 A priv'lege beyond all compare.
 God's glorious angels are reapers;
 In this work we too have a share.
Christ Jesus has set the example
 By taking the lead in the field.
 So great is the honor bestowed on us
 To joyfully share in his yield.
2. True love for our God and our neighbor
 Now moves us to speed up our pace.
 Both harvest and preaching are urgent,
 For shortly the end we will face.
The joy we receive is surpassing;
 As God's fellow workers, we share.
 So may we endure in his Kingdom work
 And know that his blessing is there.