

# OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

## NOVEMBER 2013

### WEEK STARTING NOVEMBER 11

Song 119 and Prayer

#### □ Congregation Bible Study:

*jl* Lessons 5-7 (30 min.)

#### □ Theocratic Ministry School:

**Bible reading:** Hebrews 1-8 (10 min.)

**No. 1:** Hebrews 4:1-16 (4 min. or less)

**No. 2:** How Can We Show That We Have “the Wisdom From Above”?—Jas. 3:17, 18 (5 min.)

**No. 3:** Is Loving One’s Fellowman What Really Counts?—*rs* p. 327 ¶4 (5 min.)

#### □ Service Meeting:

Song 73

**10 min:** How We Can Help to Meet the Needs of Others. Talk by an elder based on the November 15, 2013, *Watchtower*, pages 8-9.

**10 min:** How to Overcome Nervousness When Preaching. Discussion based on the following questions: (1) How can prayer help us if we are nervous at the door? (2) Why does good preparation help us to be less nervous? (3) What can help us be less nervous when working with the circuit overseer? (4) Why does nervousness decrease the more we share in the ministry? (5) What has helped you to overcome nervousness?

**10 min:** “Take as a Pattern the Prophets—Hosea.” Questions and answers.

Song 113 and Prayer

## Take as a Pattern the Prophets—Hosea

<sup>1</sup> ‘What sacrifices am I willing to make for Jehovah?’ Perhaps you have asked yourself that question when meditating on his abundant goodness and mercy. (Ps. 103:2-4; 116:12) Hosea willingly did what Jehovah commanded him to do, even though it required personal sacrifice. How can we imitate Hosea?

1. What question may you have asked yourself?

<sup>2</sup> **Preach in Troublesome Season:** Hosea’s message was directed primarily toward the ten-tribe kingdom of Israel, where true worship had nearly been stamped out. King Jeroboam II did what was bad in Jehovah’s eyes and perpetuated the calf worship initiated by Jeroboam I. (2 Ki. 14:23, 24) The succeeding kings continued the spiritual decline of the ten-tribe kingdom until it was finally destroyed in 740 B.C.E. Yet, in spite of the prevailing false worship, Hosea faithfully served as a prophet for at least 59 years. Are we similarly determined to preach year after year, even when facing apathy or opposition?—2 Tim. 4:2.

<sup>3</sup> **Focus on Jehovah’s Mercy:** Jehovah instructed Hosea to marry “a wife of fornication.” (Hos. 1:2) Although his wife, Gomer, bore him a son, she apparently later gave birth to two illegitimate children. Hosea’s willingness to forgive his wife illustrated Jehovah’s great mercy toward wayward Israel when they repented. (Hos. 3:1; Rom. 9:22-26) Are we willing to put aside personal preference in order to make known Jehovah’s mercy to people of all sorts?—1 Cor. 9:19-23.

<sup>4</sup> Some servants of Jehovah have sacrificed lucrative careers in order to devote more time to the ministry. Others have remained single or childless to pursue Kingdom interests. When reflecting on the life of Hosea, we may think to ourselves, ‘I could never do what he did.’ However, as we grow in appreciation for Jehovah’s undeserved kindness and rely upon his holy spirit for strength, we may be used by him in ways we never thought possible, just as Hosea was.—Matt. 19:26; Phil. 2:13.

2. How can we imitate Hosea’s fine example of persevering in the preaching work?

3. How did Hosea’s life illustrate Jehovah’s mercy?

4. What are some sacrifices that we might make for Jehovah?

*Come! Be Refreshed*

(Hebrews 10:24, 25)

1. We live in a world that is wayward and lost;  
The way of our God is not known.  
We need sure direction to safeguard our steps;  
We cannot succeed on our own.  
Our meetings refresh us and brighten our hope;  
They help us build faith in our God.  
They move us with words that incite to fine deeds,  
They give us the strength to go on.  
We'll never forsake what Jehovah commands;  
His will is what we want to do.  
Our meetings instruct us in ways that are right;  
Our love for the truth they renew.
  
2. Jehovah is keenly aware of our needs;  
His counsel by us should be heard.  
To buy out the time for occasions to meet  
Shows wisdom and trust in his Word.  
By wholesome instruction from God-fearing men,  
We learn how our faith can be shown.  
With loving support from our fam'ly of faith,  
We know that we're never alone.  
So as we look forward to much better times,  
We'll meet with the ones whom we love.  
And here at these meetings we'll learn how to live  
With wisdom that comes from above.

## What Will You Experience at Our Christian Meetings?

Many people have stopped attending religious services because they find no spiritual guidance or comfort. Why, then, should you attend the Christian meetings organized by Jehovah's Witnesses? What will you find there?

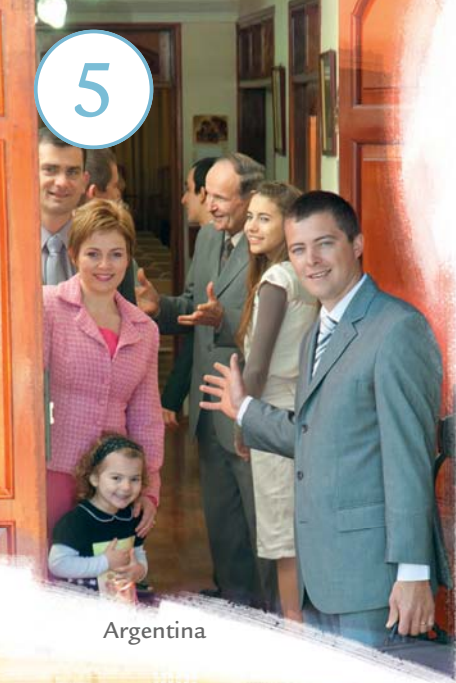
**The joy of being among loving and caring people.** In the first century, Christians were organized into congregations, and they held meetings to worship God, to study the Scriptures, and to encourage one another. (Hebrews 10:24, 25) Gathered in a loving atmosphere, they felt that they were among true friends—their spiritual brothers. (2 Thessalonians 1:3; 3 John 14) We follow the same pattern and experience similar joy.

**The benefit of learning how to apply Bible principles.** As was true in Bible times, men, women, and children all meet together. Qualified teachers use the Bible to help us discern how to apply its principles in our daily life. (Deuteronomy 31:12; Nehemiah 8:8) All may participate in audience discussions and in singing, allowing us to express our Christian hope.—Hebrews 10:23.

**The blessing of having your faith in God strengthened.** The apostle Paul told one of the congregations in his day: "I am longing to see you, . . . that there may be an interchange of encouragement among you, by each one through the other's faith, both yours and mine." (Romans 1:11, 12) At meetings, our regular contact with fellow believers strengthens our faith and determination to live a Christian life.

Why not accept this invitation to attend our congregation's next meeting and experience these things for yourself? You will be warmly welcomed. All meetings are free—no collections are ever taken.

- On what pattern are our congregation meetings based?
- How can we benefit ourselves by attending Christian meetings?



Argentina



Sierra Leone



Belgium

### FIND OUT MORE

If you would like to see inside the local Kingdom Hall before you attend one of our meetings, ask one of Jehovah's Witnesses to take you there and show you around.



Malaysia

## How Does Association With Fellow Christians Benefit Us?

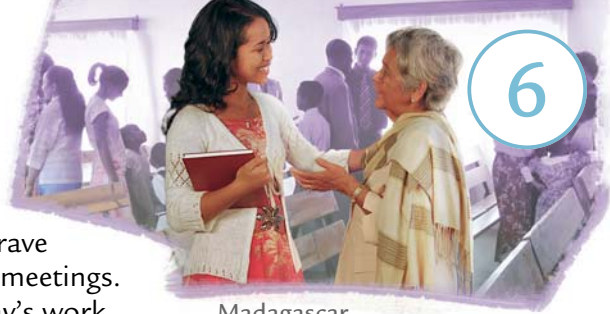
Even if we have to trek through dense jungle or brave harsh weather, we regularly attend our Christian meetings. Despite challenges of life and tiredness after a day's work, why do Jehovah's Witnesses make such an effort to associate with fellow believers?

**It is good for our well-being.** "Consider one another," wrote Paul, speaking of those with whom we associate in the congregation. (Hebrews 10:24) This expression means "to think about carefully," that is, to get to know one another. So the apostle's words encourage us to be concerned about others. By getting to know other Christian families, we discover that some of them have successfully overcome challenges similar to our own and that they can help us to succeed as well.

**It builds lasting friendships.** At our meetings, we gather together, not with mere acquaintances, but with a group of close friends. On other occasions, we spend time together in wholesome recreation. What beneficial effect does such association have? We learn to appreciate one another more, and that strengthens our bonds of love. Then, when our companions are facing problems, we readily help them because strong friendships have been established. (Proverbs 17:17) By associating with all members of our congregation, we show that we have "the same care for one another."—1 Corinthians 12:25, 26.

We encourage you to choose as your friends those who are doing God's will. You will find such friends among Jehovah's Witnesses. Please do not let anything hold you back from associating with us.

- Why is it in our best interests to associate together at the meetings?
- When would you like to get acquainted with our congregation?



Madagascar



Norway



Lebanon



Italy





New Zealand



Japan



Uganda



Lithuania

## What Are Our Meetings Like?

Early Christian meetings consisted mainly of songs, prayers, and the reading and discussing of the Scriptures—all free of any ritual. (1 Corinthians 14:26) You can expect something very similar at our meetings.

**The instruction is Bible-based and practical.** On the weekend, each congregation meets to hear a 30-minute **Bible discourse** on how the Scriptures relate to our lives and to the times we live in. All of us are encouraged to follow along in our own Bible. After the discourse, there is a one-hour **“Watchtower” Study**, in which members of the congregation are welcome to participate in a discussion of an article from the study edition of *The Watchtower*. This discussion helps us to apply the Bible’s guidance in our lives. The same material is studied in every one of our more than 100,000 congregations earth wide.

**We are helped to improve our teaching skills.** We also meet together on a midweek evening for a three-part program. First is the 30-minute **Congregation Bible Study**, a question-and-answer discussion that deepens our understanding of Scriptural principles and Bible prophecy. Next, the 30-minute **Theocratic Ministry School** begins with a discussion of a portion of the Bible that the congregation has read in advance. Then students who are enrolled in the school give short presentations. A counselor makes observations in order to help us improve our reading and speaking skills. (1 Timothy 4:13) Lastly, in the 30-minute **Service Meeting**, by means of talks, presentations, and interviews, we learn how to teach the Bible to others.

When you attend our meetings, you will no doubt be impressed by the quality of Bible education that you are receiving.—Isaiah 54:13.

### FIND OUT MORE

Examine some of the material that will be discussed at the next few meetings. Note what you will be able to learn from the Bible that can be useful in your everyday life.

- What can you expect to hear at the meetings of Jehovah’s Witnesses?
- Which of our weekly meetings would you like to attend next?



may I receive this assistance from you in connection with the Lord; refresh my heart\* in connection with Christ.

**21** I am confident that you will comply, so I am writing you, knowing that you will do even more than what I say.

**22** But along with that, also prepare a place for me to stay, for I am hoping that through your

**20** \*Or “tender affections.”

Second Col.

a Php 2:24

b Col 1:7

Col 4:12, 13

c Ac 19:29

Ac 27:2

Col 4:10

d 2Ti 4:10

e Col 4:14

prayers I will be given back to you.\*<sup>a</sup>

**23** Sending you greetings is Ep'a-phras,<sup>b</sup> my fellow captive in union with Christ Jesus, **24** also Mark, Ar-is-tar'chus,<sup>c</sup> De'mas,<sup>d</sup> and Luke,<sup>e</sup> my fellow workers.

**25** The undeserved kindness of the Lord Jesus Christ be with the spirit you show.

**22** \*Or “set free for you.”

## TO THE

# HEBREWS

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|--|---|

- 12 Jesus, Perfecter of our faith (1-3)  
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**1** Long ago God spoke to our forefathers by means of the prophets on many occasions and in many ways.<sup>a</sup> **2** Now at the end of these days he has spoken to us by means of a Son,<sup>b</sup> whom he appointed heir of all things,<sup>c</sup> and through whom he made the systems of things.<sup>\*d</sup> **3** He is the reflection of God's glory<sup>e</sup> and the exact representation of his very being,<sup>f</sup> and he sustains all things by the word of his power. And after he had made a purification for our sins,<sup>g</sup> he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.<sup>h</sup> **4** So he has become better than the angels' to the extent that he has inherited a name more excellent than theirs.<sup>i</sup>

**5** For example, to which one of the angels did God ever say: "You are my son; today I have become your father"<sup>?k</sup> And again: "I will become his father, and he will become my son"<sup>?l</sup> **6** But when he again brings his Firstborn<sup>m</sup> into the inhabited earth, he says: "And let all of God's angels do obeisance to him."<sup>\*\*</sup>

**7** Also, he says about the angels: "He makes his angels spirits, and his ministers"<sup>n</sup> a flame of fire."<sup>o</sup> **8** But about the Son, he says: "God is your throne<sup>p</sup> forever and ever, and the scepter of

1:2 \*Or "the ages." See Glossary. 1:6 \*Or "bow down to him." 1:7 \*Or "public servants."

#### CHAP. 1

- a Ex 24:3  
Nu 12:8  
Jer 7:25  
b Mt 17:5  
c Ps 2:8  
d Joh 1:3  
1Co 8:6  
Col 1:16  
e Joh 1:14  
Joh 17:5  
f Col 1:15  
g Heb 9:26  
h Ps 110:1  
Ac 2:32, 33  
Ac 7:55  
i Eph 1:20, 21  
1Pe 3:22  
j Ac 4:12  
Php 2:9, 10  
k Ps 2:7  
l 2Sa 7:14  
Mr 1:11  
Lu 9:35  
2Pe 1:17  
m Joh 1:14  
Ro 8:29  
Col 1:15  
n Ps 91:11  
Lu 22:43  
o Ps 104:4  
p Mt 28:18  
Re 3:21

#### Second Col.

- a Isa 61:1  
Lu 3:21, 22  
Lu 4:18  
b Ps 45:6, 7  
c Ps 102:25-27  
d Ps 110:1  
Mt 22:44  
e Ps 34:7  
Ps 91:11  
Ac 5:18, 19

#### CHAP. 2

- f Lu 8:15  
g Ps 73:2  
Heb 3:12  
2Pe 3:17  
h Ga 3:19  
i De 4:3  
Jude 5  
j Heb 10:28, 29  
k Mr 1:14

your Kingdom is the scepter of uprightness.<sup>\*</sup> **9** You loved righteousness, and you hated lawlessness. That is why God, your God, anointed you<sup>a</sup> with the oil of exultation more than your companions.<sup>b</sup> **10** And: "At the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the works of your hands. **11** They will perish, but you will remain; and just like a garment, they will all wear out, **12** and you will wrap them up just as a cloak, as a garment, and they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never come to an end."<sup>c</sup>

**13** But about which of the angels has he ever said: "Sit at my right hand until I place your enemies as a stool for your feet"<sup>?d</sup> **14** Are they not all spirits for holy service,<sup>\*e</sup> sent out to minister for those who are going to inherit salvation?

**2** That is why it is necessary for us to pay more than the usual attention to the things we have heard,<sup>f</sup> so that we never drift away.<sup>g</sup> **2** For if the word spoken through angels<sup>h</sup> proved to be sure, and every transgression and disobedient act received a punishment in harmony with justice,<sup>i</sup> **3** how will we escape if we have neglected so great a salvation?<sup>j</sup> For it began to be spoken through our Lord<sup>k</sup>

1:8 \*Or "justice." 1:14 \*Or "for public service."

and was verified for us by those who heard him, **4** while God joined in bearing witness with signs and wonders\* and various powerful works<sup>a</sup> and with the holy spirit distributed according to his will.<sup>b</sup>

**5** For it is not to angels that he has subjected the inhabited earth to come,<sup>c</sup> about which we are speaking. **6** But in one place a certain witness said: "What is man that you keep him in mind, or a son of man that you take care of him?"<sup>d</sup> **7** You made him a little lower than angels; you crowned him with glory and honor, and appointed him over the works of your hands. **8** All things you subjected under his feet."<sup>e</sup> By subjecting all things to him,<sup>f</sup> God left nothing that is not subject to him.<sup>g</sup> Now, though, we do not yet see all things in subjection to him.<sup>h</sup> **9** But we do see Jesus, who was made a little lower than angels,<sup>i</sup> now crowned with glory and honor for having suffered death,<sup>j</sup> so that by God's undeserved kindness he might taste death for everyone.<sup>k</sup>

**10** For it was fitting that the one for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory,<sup>l</sup> should make the Chief Agent of their salvation<sup>m</sup> perfect through sufferings.<sup>n</sup> **11** For both the one who is sanctifying and those who are being sanctified<sup>o</sup> all stem from one,<sup>p</sup> and for this reason he is not ashamed to call them brothers,<sup>q</sup> **12** as he says: "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you with song."<sup>r</sup> **13** And again: "I will put my trust in him."<sup>s</sup> And again: "Look! I and the young children, whom Jehovah\* gave me."<sup>t</sup>

2:4 \*Or "portents." 2:13 \*See App. A5.

## CHAP. 2

a Ac 2:22  
b 1Co 12:11  
c Ac 17:31  
2Pe 3:13  
d Ps 144:3  
e Ps 8:4-6  
f Mt 28:18  
1Co 15:27  
Eph 1:22  
g 1Pe 3:22  
h Ps 110:1  
i Php 2:7  
j Re 5:9  
k Isa 53:5, 8  
Lo 5:17  
1Ti 2:5, 6  
l Ro 8:18, 19  
2Co 6:18  
m Ac 5:31  
Heb 12:2  
n Lu 24:26  
Heb 5:8  
o Joh 17:19  
Heb 10:14  
p Joh 20:17  
q Mt 12:50  
Ro 8:29  
r Ps 22:22  
s Isa 8:17  
t Isa 8:18

## Second Col.

a Joh 1:14  
b Joh 1:19  
c Ge 3:15  
Lu 10:18  
Joh 8:44  
1Jo 3:8  
Re 12:9  
d Isa 25:8  
Ro 8:20, 21  
1Co 15:26  
e Ga 3:29  
f Php 2:7  
g Ro 3:25  
1Jo 2:1, 2  
1Jo 4:10  
h Ro 5:10  
i Heb 4:15  
j Heb 7:25  
Re 3:10

## CHAP. 3

k Php 3:14  
1Th 2:12  
l Heb 8:1  
m Joh 8:29  
n Nu 12:7  
o Mt 17:1, 2  
p Mt 17:5  
q 1Pe 2:5

**14** Therefore, since the "young children" are sharers of blood and flesh, he also similarly shared in the same things,<sup>a</sup> so that through his death he might bring to nothing the one having the means to cause death,<sup>b</sup> that is, the Devil.<sup>c</sup> **15** and that he might set free\* all those who were held in slavery all their lives by their fear of death.<sup>d</sup> **16** For it is not really angels he is assisting, but he is assisting Abraham's offspring.\*<sup>e</sup> **17** Consequently, he had to become like his "brothers" in all respects,<sup>f</sup> so that he could become a merciful and faithful high priest in things relating to God, in order to offer a propitiatory sacrifice\*<sup>g</sup> for the sins of the people.<sup>h</sup> **18** Since he himself has suffered when being put to the test,<sup>i</sup> he is able to come to the aid of those who are being put to the test.<sup>j</sup>

**3** Consequently, holy brothers, partakers of the heavenly calling,<sup>k</sup> consider the apostle and high priest whom we acknowledge\*—Jesus.<sup>l</sup> **2** He was faithful to the One who appointed him,<sup>m</sup> just as Moses also was in all the house of that One.<sup>n</sup> **3** For he\* is counted worthy of more glory<sup>o</sup> than Moses, since the one who constructs a house has more honor than the house itself. **4** Of course, every house is constructed by someone, but the one who constructed all things is God. **5** Now Moses was faithful as an attendant in all the house of that One as a testimony\* of the things that were to be spoken afterward, **6** but Christ was faithful as a son<sup>p</sup> over God's house. We are His house<sup>q</sup> if, in-

2:15 \*Or "emancipate." 2:16 \*Lit., "seed." 2:17 \*Or "to offer an atoning sacrifice; to make atonement." 3:1 \*Or "invitation." \*Or "confess." 3:3 \*That is, Jesus. 3:5 \*Or "witness."



deed, we hold on firmly to our freeness of speech and the hope of which we boast down to the end.

7 Therefore, just as the holy spirit says,<sup>a</sup> "Today if you listen to his voice, 8 do not harden your hearts as on the occasion of provoking to bitter anger, as in the day of testing in the wilderness,<sup>b</sup> 9 where your forefathers put me to the test and tried me, despite seeing my works for 40 years.<sup>c</sup> 10 This is why I became disgusted with this generation and said: "They always go astray in their hearts, and they have not come to know my ways." 11 So I swore in my anger: "They will not enter into my rest."<sup>d</sup>

12 Beware, brothers, for fear there should ever develop in any one of you a wicked heart lacking faith by drawing away from the living God;<sup>e</sup> 13 but keep on encouraging one another each day, as long as it is called "Today,"<sup>f</sup> so that none of you should become hardened by the deceptive power of sin. 14 For we actually become partakers of\* the Christ only if we hold firmly down to the end the confidence we had at the beginning.<sup>g</sup> 15 As it is said, "Today if you listen to his voice, do not harden your hearts as on the occasion of provoking to bitter anger."<sup>h</sup>

16 For who heard and yet provoked him to bitter anger? Was it not, in fact, all those who went out of Egypt under Moses?<sup>i</sup> 17 Moreover, with whom did God become disgusted for 40 years?<sup>j</sup> Was it not with those who sinned, whose dead bodies fell in the wilderness?<sup>k</sup> 18 And to whom did he swear that they would not enter into his rest? Was it not to those who acted disobediently? 19 So we see

3:14 \*Or "have a sharing with."

#### CHAP. 3

- a 2Sa 23:2  
Ac 1:16  
b Ex 17:7  
c Ex 16:35  
Nu 32:13  
Ps 95:9  
d Nu 14:22, 23  
Ps 95:7-11  
e Heb 2:1  
f Ps 95:7  
g Re 2:10  
h Ps 95:7, 8  
i Ex 17:1-3  
Nu 14:2, 4  
j Nu 14:11  
De 32:21  
k Nu 14:22, 23  
Nu 14:28-30  
Jude 5

#### Second Col.

- a Heb 4:6

#### CHAP. 4

- b Heb 3:12, 13  
c Mt 4:23  
Ac 15:7  
Col 1:23  
d Ps 95:11  
Heb 3:11  
e Ex 31:17  
f Ge 2:2, 3  
g Ps 95:11  
h Nu 14:30  
De 31:27  
i Ps 95:7, 8  
j Ex 24:13  
De 1:38  
k Mr 2:28  
l Ge 2:2, 3  
m Ps 95:11  
n Jer 23:29  
1Th 2:13

that they could not enter in because of lack of faith.<sup>a</sup>

4 Therefore, since a promise of entering into his rest remains, let us be on guard\* for fear someone among you seems to fall short of it.<sup>b</sup> 2 For we have also had the good news declared to us,<sup>c</sup> just as they had; but the word that they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. 3 For we who have exercised faith do enter into the rest, just as he has said: "So I swore in my anger, 'They will not enter into my rest,'"<sup>d</sup> although his works were finished from the founding of the world.<sup>e</sup> 4 For in one place he has said of the seventh day as follows: "And God rested on the seventh day from all his works,"<sup>f</sup> 5 and here again he says: "They will not enter into my rest."<sup>g</sup>

6 Therefore, since it remains for some to enter into it, and those to whom the good news was first declared did not enter in because of disobedience,<sup>h</sup> 7 he again marks off a certain day by saying long afterward in David's psalm, "Today"; just as it has been said above, "Today if you listen to his voice, do not harden your hearts."<sup>i</sup> 8 For if Joshua<sup>j</sup> had led them into a place of rest, God would not afterward have spoken of another day. 9 So there remains a sabbath-rest for the people of God.<sup>k</sup> 10 For the man who has entered into God's rest has also rested from his own works, just as God did from his own.<sup>l</sup>

11 Let us therefore do our utmost to enter into that rest, so that no one may fall into the same pattern of disobedience.<sup>m</sup> 12 For the word of God is alive and exerts power<sup>n</sup> and

4:1 \*Lit., "be in fear."

## HEBREWS 4:13-6:2

is sharper than any two-edged sword<sup>a</sup> and pierces even to the dividing of soul\* and spirit,\* and of joints from the marrow, and is able to discern thoughts and intentions of the heart. **13** And there is not a creation that is hidden from his sight,<sup>b</sup> but all things are naked and openly exposed to the eyes of the one to whom we must give an account.<sup>c</sup>

**14** Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God,<sup>d</sup> let us hold on to our public declaration of him.<sup>e</sup> **15** For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses,<sup>f</sup> but we have one who has been tested in all respects as we have, but without sin.<sup>g</sup> **16** Let us, then, approach the throne of undeserved kindness with freedom of speech,<sup>h</sup> so that we may receive mercy and find undeserved kindness to help us at the right time.

**5** For every high priest taken from among men is appointed in their behalf over the things relating to God,<sup>i</sup> so that he may offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.<sup>j</sup> **2** He is able to deal compassionately\* with the ignorant and erring\* ones, since he too is confronted with<sup>Δ</sup> his own weakness, **3** and because of that he must make offerings for his own sins just as he does for those of the people.<sup>k</sup>

**4** A man does not take this honor of his own accord, but he receives it only when he is called by God, just as Aaron was.<sup>l</sup> **5** So, too, the Christ did not glorify himself<sup>m</sup> by becoming a high priest, but was glori-

## CHAP. 4

a Eph 6:17

b Ps 7:9  
Ps 90:8  
Pr 15:11c Ac 17:31  
Ro 2:16  
Ro 14:12

d Mr 1:11

e Heb 10:23

f Isa 53:4  
Heb 2:17g Heb 7:26  
1Pe 2:22h Eph 3:11, 12  
Heb 10:19-22

## CHAP. 5

i Ex 40:13

j Le 5:6

k Le 9:7  
Le 16:6

l Ex 28:1

m Joh 8:54

## Second Col.

a Ps 2:7  
Ac 13:33

b Ps 110:4

c Lu 22:44  
Joh 12:27d Mt 26:39  
Php 2:8

e Heb 7:28

f Joh 3:16

g Ps 110:4

h Heb 6:1

i Eph 4:14

## CHAP. 6

j Heb 5:12

k 1Co 14:20  
Eph 4:13  
Heb 5:14

fied by the One who said to him: "You are my son; today I have become your father."<sup>a</sup> **6** As he also says in another place, "You are a priest forever in the manner of Mel-chiz'e-dek."<sup>b</sup>

**7** During his life on earth,\* Christ offered up supplications and also petitions, with strong outcries and tears,<sup>c</sup> to the One who was able to save him out of death, and he was favorably heard for his godly fear. **8** Although he was a son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered.<sup>d</sup> **9** And after he had been made perfect,<sup>e</sup> he became responsible for everlasting salvation to all those obeying him,<sup>f</sup> **10** because he has been designated by God a high priest in the manner of Mel-chiz'e-dek.<sup>g</sup>

**11** We have much to say about him, and it is difficult to explain, because you have become dull in your hearing. **12** For although by now\* you should be teachers, you again need someone to teach you from the beginning the elementary things<sup>h</sup> of the sacred pronouncements of God, and you have gone back to needing milk, not solid food. **13** For everyone who continues to feed on milk is unacquainted with the word of righteousness, for he is a young child.<sup>i</sup> **14** But solid food belongs to mature people, to those who through use have their powers of discernment\* trained to distinguish both right and wrong.

**6** Therefore, now that we have moved beyond the primary doctrine<sup>j</sup> about the Christ, let us press on to maturity,<sup>k</sup> not laying a foundation again, namely, repentance from dead works and faith in God, **2** the teaching on

**5:7** \*Lit., "In the days of his flesh."  
**5:12** \*Lit., "in view of the time."  
**5:14** \*Or "their perceptive powers."

**4:12** \*See Glossary. **5:2** \*Or "gently; moderately." <sup>Δ</sup>Or "wayward." <sup>Δ</sup>Or "subject to."

baptisms and the laying on of the hands,<sup>a</sup> the resurrection of the dead<sup>b</sup> and everlasting judgment. **3** And this we will do, if God indeed permits.

**4** For as regards those who were once enlightened<sup>c</sup> and who have tasted the heavenly free gift and who have become partakers of holy spirit **5** and who have tasted the fine word of God and powers of the coming system of things,<sup>\*</sup> **6** but have fallen away,<sup>d</sup> it is impossible to revive them again to repentance, because they nail the Son of God to the stake again for themselves and expose him to public shame.<sup>e</sup> **7** For the ground receives a blessing from God when it drinks in the rain that frequently falls on it and then produces vegetation useful to those for whom it is cultivated. **8** But if it produces thorns and thistles, it is rejected and is near to being cursed, and in the end it will be burned.

**9** But in your case, beloved ones, we are convinced of better things, things related to salvation, even though we are speaking in this way. **10** For God is not unrighteous so as to forget your work and the love you showed for his name<sup>f</sup> by ministering and continuing to minister to the holy ones. **11** But we desire each one of you to show the same industriousness so as to have the full assurance of the hope<sup>g</sup> down to the end,<sup>h</sup> **12** so that you may not become sluggish,<sup>i</sup> but be imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

**13** For when God made his promise to Abraham, since he could not swear by anyone greater, he swore by himself,<sup>j</sup> **14** saying: "I will surely bless you and I will surely multiply

6:5 \*Or "the coming age." See Glossary.

#### CHAP. 6

a Ac 8:17

b Mt 22:31  
Joh 5:28, 29  
Joh 11:25

c Eph 1:18  
Heb 10:26

d 1Jo 2:19

e Heb 10:29

f Heb 10:32,  
33

g 1Pe 1:3, 4

h Heb 3:14

i Ro 12:11  
Re 2:4

j Ge 22:16

#### Second Col.

a Ge 22:17

b Ge 31:53

c Ga 3:29

d Nu 23:19  
Tit 1:2

e 1Pe 1:3, 4

f Le 16:2, 12  
Heb 9:7  
Heb 10:19, 20

g Heb 4:14

h Ps 110:4  
Heb 5:6

#### CHAP. 7

i Ge 14:17-20

j Ps 110:4

k Ge 14:20

you."<sup>a</sup> **15** So after Abraham had shown patience, he obtained this promise. **16** For men swear by someone greater, and their oath is the end of every dispute, since it is a legal guarantee to them.<sup>b</sup> **17** In this same way, when God decided to demonstrate more clearly to the heirs of the promise<sup>c</sup> the unchangeableness of his purpose,<sup>\*</sup> he guaranteed it<sup>z</sup> with an oath, **18** in order that through two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie,<sup>d</sup> we who have fled to the refuge may have strong encouragement to take firm hold of the hope set before us. **19** We have this hope<sup>e</sup> as an anchor for the soul,<sup>\*</sup> both sure and firm, and it enters in within the curtain,<sup>f</sup> **20** where a forerunner has entered in our behalf, Jesus,<sup>g</sup> who has become a high priest in the manner of Mel-chiz'e-dek forever.<sup>h</sup>

**7** For this Mel-chiz'e-dek, king of Sa'lem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,<sup>i</sup> **2** and Abraham gave<sup>\*</sup> him a tenth of everything. First, his name is translated "King of Righteousness," and then also king of Sa'lem, that is, "King of Peace." **3** In being fatherless, motherless, without genealogy, having neither a beginning of days nor an end of life, but being made like the Son of God, he remains a priest for all time.<sup>j</sup>

**4** See how great this man was to whom Abraham, the family head,<sup>\*</sup> gave a tenth out of the best spoils.<sup>k</sup> **5** True, according to the Law, those of the sons of

6:17 \*Or "counsel." <sup>z</sup>Or "stepped in." Lit., "mediated." 6:19 \*Or "for our lives." 7:2 \*Lit., "apportioned." 7:3 \*Or "perpetually." 7:4 \*Or "the patriarch."

Le'vi<sup>a</sup> who receive their priestly office have a commandment to collect tithes from the people,<sup>b</sup> that is, from their brothers, even though these are descendants\* of Abraham. **6** But this man who did not trace his genealogy from them took tithes from Abraham and blessed the one who had the promises.<sup>c</sup> **7** Now it is undeniable that the lesser one is blessed by the greater. **8** And in the one case, it is men who are dying who receive tithes, but in the other case, it is someone of whom witness is given that he lives.<sup>d</sup> **9** And it could be said that even Le'vi, who receives tithes, has paid tithes through Abraham, **10** for he was still a future descendant\* of his forefather when Mel-chiz'e-dek met him.<sup>e</sup>

**11** If, then, perfection was attainable through the Levitical priesthood<sup>f</sup> (for it was a feature of the Law that was given to the people), what further need would there be for another priest to arise who is said to be in the manner of Mel-chiz'e-dek<sup>g</sup> and not in the manner of Aaron? **12** For since the priesthood is being changed, it becomes necessary to change the Law as well.<sup>h</sup> **13** For the man about whom these things are said came from another tribe, from which no one has officiated at the altar.<sup>i</sup> **14** For it is clear that our Lord has descended from Judah,<sup>j</sup> yet Moses said nothing about priests coming from that tribe.

**15** And this becomes even clearer when another priest<sup>k</sup> arises who is like Mel-chiz'e-dek,<sup>l</sup> **16** who has become such, not by the legal requirement that depends on fleshly descent, but by the power of an indestructible

7:5 \*Lit., "have come out of the loins."  
7:10 \*Lit., "in the loins."

## CHAP. 7

a Ex 40:12, 15  
b Nu 18:21, 26  
De 14:28  
c Ge 12:7  
Ge 14:18-20  
Ge 17:6  
Ge 22:17  
d Heb 7:3  
e Ge 14:18  
f Ro 3:20  
Heb 7:19  
Heb 9:9  
Heb 10:1  
g Ps 110:4  
h Ro 3:27  
i Co 9:21  
Ga 6:2  
Col 2:13, 14  
j Nu 18:6, 7  
k Mt 1:1, 3  
Lu 3:23, 33  
l Heb 3:1  
Heb 7:26  
m Ps 110:4

## Second Col.

a Ro 6:9  
1Ti 6:16  
b Ps 110:4  
c Ro 8:3  
Heb 9:9  
Heb 13:9  
d Ac 13:38, 39  
Ga 2:15, 16  
Heb 10:1  
e 1Pe 1:3, 4  
f Joh 14:6  
Heb 4:16  
g Ps 110:4  
h Jer 31:31  
Mt 26:27, 28  
1Co 11:25  
Heb 8:6  
Heb 9:15  
Heb 12:22, 24  
i 1Ch 6:4  
j Lu 1:33  
Heb 7:15, 16  
k Ro 8:34  
1Ti 2:5  
Heb 9:24  
1Jo 2:1  
l Isa 53:9  
1Pe 2:21, 22  
m Eph 1:20, 21  
1Pe 3:22  
n Nu 28:3  
o Le 9:8, 15  
p Ro 6:10  
Heb 9:28  
Heb 10:14  
q Le 16:11  
r Ps 2:7  
Ps 110:4

life.<sup>a</sup> **17** For it is said in witness of him: "You are a priest forever in the manner of Mel-chiz'e-dek."<sup>b</sup>

**18** So, then, the former commandment is set aside because it is weak and ineffective.<sup>c</sup> **19** For the Law made nothing perfect,<sup>d</sup> but the introduction of a better hope<sup>e</sup> did, through which we are drawing near to God.<sup>f</sup> **20** Also, inasmuch as this was not done without an oath being sworn **21** (for, indeed, there are men who have become priests without a sworn oath, but this one has become so through an oath sworn respecting him by the One who said: "Jehovah\* has sworn, and he will not change his mind,"<sup>g</sup> "You are a priest forever"),<sup>g</sup> **22** Jesus has accordingly become the guarantee\* of a better covenant.<sup>h</sup> **23** Furthermore, many had to become priests in succession<sup>i</sup> because death prevented them from continuing as such, **24** but because he continues alive forever,<sup>j</sup> his priesthood has no successors. **25** So he is able also to save completely those who are approaching God through him, because he is always alive to plead for them.<sup>k</sup>

**26** For it is fitting for us to have such a high priest who is loyal, innocent, undefiled,<sup>l</sup> separated from the sinners, and exalted above the heavens.<sup>m</sup> **27** Unlike those high priests, he does not need to offer up sacrifices daily,<sup>n</sup> first for his own sins and then for those of the people,<sup>o</sup> because he did this once for all time when he offered himself up.<sup>p</sup> **28** For the Law appoints as high priests men who have weaknesses,<sup>q</sup> but the word of the oath<sup>r</sup> sworn af-

7:21 \*See App. A5. <sup>a</sup>Or "will feel no regret." 7:22 \*Or "the one given in pledge."

ter the Law appoints a son, who has been made perfect<sup>a</sup> forever.

**8** Now this is the main point of what we are saying: We have such a high priest as this,<sup>b</sup> and he has sat down at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens,<sup>c</sup> **2** a minister\* of the holy place<sup>d</sup> and of the true tent, which Jehovah<sup>e</sup> set up, and not man. **3** For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices; so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer.<sup>e</sup>

**4** If he were on earth, he would not be a priest,<sup>f</sup> since there are already men who offer the gifts according to the Law. **5** These men are offering sacred service in a typical representation and a shadow<sup>g</sup> of the heavenly things;<sup>h</sup> just as Moses, when about to construct the tent, was given the divine command: For He says: "See that you make all things after their pattern that was shown to you in the mountain."<sup>i</sup> **6** But now Jesus has obtained a more excellent ministry\* because he is also the mediator<sup>j</sup> of a correspondingly better covenant,<sup>k</sup> which has been legally established on better promises.<sup>l</sup>

**7** If that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no need for a second.<sup>m</sup> **8** For he does find fault with the people when he says: "Look! The days are coming," says Jehovah,<sup>n</sup> "when I will make with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah a new covenant. **9** It will not be like the covenant that I made with their forefathers on the day I took hold of their hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt,<sup>n</sup> because they did not remain in my covenant,

8:2 \*Or "public servant." 8:2, 8-11 \*See App. A5. 8:6 \*Or "public service."

## CHAP. 7

a Heb 2:10  
b Heb 5:9

## CHAP. 8

b Heb 3:1  
c Ps 110:1  
d Heb 9:8, 24  
e Eph 5:2  
f Heb 7:14  
g Col 2:16, 17  
h Heb 10:1  
i Ex 25:9, 40  
j 1Ti 2:5  
k 1Co 11:25  
l Ps 110:4  
m Heb 7:11, 18  
n Ex 12:51

## Second Col.

a Ro 2:29  
b 2Co 6:16  
c Jer 31:31-34  
d Ro 10:4  
e Col 2:13, 14

## CHAP. 9

f Ex 25:8  
g Nu 4:9  
h Ex 40:22-24  
i Ex 26:33  
j Ex 36:35  
k Ex 26:31, 33  
l Le 16:12  
m Ex 40:21  
n Ex 25:10, 11  
o Ex 16:33  
p Nu 17:10  
q Ex 32:15  
r Ex 25:18, 22  
Nu 7:89

so I stopped caring for them,' says Jehovah.<sup>#</sup>

**10** "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days,' says Jehovah.<sup>#</sup> 'I will put my laws in their mind, and in their hearts I will write them.<sup>a</sup> And I will become their God, and they will become my people.<sup>b</sup>

**11** "And they will no longer teach each one his fellow citizen and each one his brother, saying: 'Know Jehovah!'"<sup>#</sup> For they will all know me, from the least to the greatest of them. **12** For I will be merciful toward their unrighteous deeds, and I will no longer call their sins to mind."<sup>c</sup>

**13** In his saying "a new covenant," he has made the former one obsolete.<sup>d</sup> Now what is obsolete and growing old is near to vanishing away.<sup>e</sup>

**9** For its part, the former covenant used to have legal requirements for sacred service and its holy place<sup>f</sup> on earth.

**2** For a first tent compartment was constructed, in which were the lampstand<sup>g</sup> and the table and the display of the loaves of presentation;<sup>h</sup> and it is called the Holy Place.<sup>i</sup> **3** But behind the second curtain<sup>j</sup> was the tent compartment called the Most Holy.<sup>k</sup> **4** This had a golden censer<sup>l</sup> and the ark of the covenant<sup>m</sup> completely overlaid with gold,<sup>n</sup> in which were the golden jar containing the manna<sup>o</sup> and Aaron's rod that budded<sup>p</sup> and the tablets<sup>q</sup> of the covenant; **5** and above it were the glorious cherubs overshadowing the propitiatory cover.<sup>r</sup> But now is not the time to speak of these things in detail.

**6** After these things were constructed this way, the priests enter the first tent compartment

9:2 \*Or "the showbread." 9:5 \*Or "the place of atonement."



unity would never be achieved if the individuals did not meet together, benefit from the same spiritual feeding program, and respect the agency through which such instruction was provided. See also John 17:20, 21.)

1 Pet. 2:17: “Have love for the whole association of brothers.” (Does that include only those who may meet together for worship in a particular private home? Not at all; it is an international brotherhood, as shown by Galatians 2:8, 9 and 1 Corinthians 16:19.)

Matt. 24:14: “This good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations; and then the end will come.” (For all nations to be given the opportunity to hear that good news, the preaching must be carried out in an orderly way, with suitable oversight. Love for God and for one’s fellowman has caused people around the earth to unite their efforts to do this work.)

See also the main heading “Organization.”

### ***Is loving one’s fellowman what really counts?***

There is no doubt about it, such love is important. (Rom. 13:8-10) But being a Christian involves more than simply being kind to our neighbor. Jesus said that his true disciples would be outstandingly identified by their love for one another, for fellow believers. (John 13:35) The importance of that is emphasized repeatedly in the Bible. (Gal. 6:10; 1 Pet. 4:8; 1 John 3:14, 16, 17) However, Jesus showed that even more important is our love for God himself, which is shown by our obedience to his commandments. (Matt. 22:35-38; 1 John 5:3) To demonstrate such love, we need to study and apply God’s Word and assemble with fellow servants of God for worship.

### ***Is having a personal relationship with God the really important thing?***

It certainly is important. Merely attending religious services in a formalistic way cannot take the place of it. But we need to be careful. Why? In the first century, there were people who thought they had a good relationship with God but whom Jesus showed to be badly mistaken. (John 8:41-44) The apostle Paul wrote about

# 73 *Love Intensely From the Heart* (1 Peter 1:22)

1. Love must come from deep in our hearts,  
There is the place affection starts;  
Real fellow feeling it imparts  
For all our brothers dear.  
We will find the way to express  
Loving intentions we possess,  
Practicing God's large heartedness,  
Proving our love sincere.  
Let us love in word and deed,  
Being generous to those in need,  
Letting goodness take the lead  
With each opportunity.  
Honor and respect we display;  
Kindly concern will be our way.  
Our brothers' faults we won't betray.  
Ever loyal we will be,  
Guarding precious unity.
2. When our love is pure and intense,  
We will be slow to take offense;  
Reason we have for confidence  
In all our brothers true.  
Loyal friendships, we cultivate;  
Each other we appreciate.  
Pleasurably we congregate,  
Gaining our strength anew.

Day by day we all transgress;  
Thoughtless words can often cause distress.  
So we must show tenderness  
To those whom our God does love.  
True companions we'll ever be,  
Strengthening bonds with constancy.  
Let love be your identity.  
Magnifying God above,  
Imitate Jehovah's love.

(See also 1 Pet. 2:17; 3:8; 4:8; 1 John 3:11.)

# How We Can Help to Meet the Needs of Others



“VIOLENCE erupted in the wake of a contested election, forcing thousands of Jehovah’s Witnesses to flee their homes,” relates François, an elder in a developing land. “Food and medicine became scarce, and what remained was extremely expensive. Banks closed, and cash machines emptied or went off-line.”

Brothers from the branch office quickly began delivering funds and emergency supplies to displaced Witnesses gathered at Kingdom Halls around the country. Rival factions set up roadblocks, but because both sides knew that the Witnesses maintain strict neutrality, branch vehicles were usually allowed to pass.

“On the way to one Kingdom Hall, snipers opened fire on our van,” says François. “However, the bullets passed between us. Seeing a soldier running toward us, weapon in hand, we jammed the van into reverse, turned around, and sped back to the branch. We were thankful to Jehovah that we were alive. The following day, the 130 brothers in that Kingdom Hall made it to safety. Some came to the branch office, where we looked after their spiritual and material needs until the crisis was over.”

“The branch office later received many letters from brothers across the country expressing profound gratitude,” says François. “Experiencing how their brothers elsewhere had come to their aid increased their confidence in Jehovah.”

In the face of natural and man-made disasters, we do not tell needy brothers and sisters to “keep warm and well fed.” (Jas. 2:15, 16) Instead, we seek to provide for their physical needs. Similarly, after receiving warning of a coming famine in the first century, “the disciples determined, each of them according as anyone could afford it, to send a relief ministration to the brothers dwelling in Judea.”—Acts 11:28-30.

As Jehovah’s servants, we are eager to help needy individuals in a material way. However, people also have a spiritual need. (Matt. 5:3) To help them become aware of that need and take steps to satisfy it, Jesus commissioned his followers to make disciples. (Matt. 28:19, 20) We individually devote much of our time, energy, and resources to carrying out that commission. As an organization, we use some donated funds to provide material help, but donations are used chiefly to promote Kingdom interests and spread the good news. We thus show our love for God and for our neighbors.—Matt. 22:37-39.

Those who support the worldwide work of Jehovah’s Witnesses can be sure that their donations are used properly and effectively. Are you in a position to help bring relief to your brothers in need? Do you desire to support the disciple-making work? If so, “do not hold back good from those to whom it is owing, when it happens to be in the power of your hand to do it.”—Prov. 3:27.

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# HOW SOME CHOOSE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE WORLDWIDE WORK

As in the apostle Paul's day, many today "set something aside," or budget, an amount of money and place it in the congregation contribution boxes labeled "Worldwide Work." (1 Cor. 16:2) Each month, congregations forward these contributions to the office of Jehovah's Witnesses that serves their country. It is also possible for you to send donations directly to a legal entity that is used by Jehovah's Witnesses in your country. To learn the name of the primary legal entity used by Jehovah's Witnesses in your country, please contact the branch office that serves the country. The address of the branch office can be found on [www.jw.org](http://www.jw.org). The types of donations that you can send directly are the following:

## OUTRIGHT DONATIONS

- Donations of cash, jewelry, or other valuable personal property.
- Include a letter indicating that the cash or the items are an outright donation.

## CONDITIONAL DONATION ARRANGEMENT

- Donations of cash with the condition that it can be returned if needed by the donor.
- Include a letter stating that the donation is conditional.

## CHARITABLE PLANNING

In addition to gifts of money and valuable personal property, there are other methods of giving to benefit Kingdom service worldwide. These are listed below. Regardless of the method or methods you would like to use, please first contact the

branch office that serves your country to see which methods are available in the country. Since legal requirements and tax laws vary, it is important to consult qualified tax and legal advisers before choosing the best way to donate.

**Insurance:** A donation made by specifying an entity used by Jehovah's Witnesses as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy or a retirement/pension plan.

**Bank Accounts:** Bank accounts, certificates of deposit, or individual retirement accounts set up as a trust or made payable on death to an entity used by Jehovah's Witnesses in accord with local bank requirements.

**Stocks and Bonds:** Stocks and bonds donated to an entity used by Jehovah's Witnesses as an outright gift or by means of a Transfer on Death agreement.

**Real Estate:** Salable real estate donated to an entity used by Jehovah's Witnesses, either by making an outright gift or, in the case of residential property, by reserving a life estate to the donor, who can continue to live in the residence during his or her lifetime.

**Gift Annuity:** Money or securities donated to an entity used by Jehovah's Witnesses under an arrangement where the donor, or someone designated by the donor, receives a specified annuity payment every year for life. The donor receives an income-tax deduction for the year in which the gift annuity is established.

**Wills and Trusts:** Property or money may be bequeathed to an entity used

by Jehovah's Witnesses by means of a legally executed will or by specifying the entity as the beneficiary of a trust agreement. This arrangement may provide certain tax advantages.

As the term "charitable planning" implies, these types of donations typically require some planning on the part of the donor. To assist individuals desiring to benefit the worldwide work of Jehovah's Witnesses through some form of charitable giving, a brochure entitled *Charitable Planning to Benefit Kingdom Service Worldwide* has been prepared in English and Spanish. The brochure was written to provide information on a variety of ways that gifts may be made now or later, as through a bequest at death. The information covered in this brochure may not apply fully to your situation because of tax or other laws in your country. Hence, after reading the brochure, you should confer with your own legal or tax advisers. By using such methods of charitable giving, many have been able to help support our religious and humanitarian activities worldwide and maximize their tax benefits. If available in your country, the brochure may be obtained by requesting a copy from the secretary of the local congregation.

For more information, you may contact the Charitable Planning Office, either in writing or by telephone, at the address listed below, or you may contact the branch office that serves your country.

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## CHARITABLE PLANNING OFFICE

Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania

100 Watchtower Drive

Patterson, New York 12563-9204

Telephone: (845) 306-0707



***Grateful for God's Word***  
**(Philippians 2:16)**

1. Jehovah, our Father, we want to express  
How grateful we are that your Word we possess!  
Its writers you inspired to tell your very thought.  
By Scripture we're guided; by you we are taught.
2. Endowed are its pages with human appeal.  
Your prophets were like us; they felt what we feel.  
We gather faith and courage  
by learning of their lives.  
Our heart it refreshes; our soul it revives.
3. Your word has such power to reach deep inside,  
Yes, even the spirit and soul to divide.  
It searches our intentions and motives of our hearts.  
It offers correction and wisdom imparts.