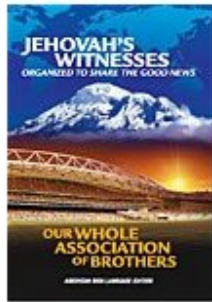


JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES - ORGANIZED TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS



“Go therefore and make disciples of people of all the nations.” With those words Jesus commissioned his followers to share the good news about the Kingdom of God. This message brought comfort for those distressed and made available the hope of everlasting life for all mankind. In our day the same message is being conveyed on a much larger scale. For over 100 years Jehovah’s Witnesses have been organized for this very purpose. They speak this message in hundreds of languages. They deliver it in more than 230 lands. Bringing solace to millions in a troubled world. It has become the greatest preaching campaign the world has ever known.

Jehovah’s Witnesses are well known for living by Bible standards. Who really are Jehovah’s Witnesses? Some of them may be your neighbors. People you meet every day. However, it is their Bible education program that is most visible to others. How is their activity organized, directed, and financed? New York, USA, world headquarters of Jehovah’s Witnesses since 1909. It is also the location of the largest of the more than 100 branches of Jehovah’s Witnesses worldwide.

In the first century the sharing of good news was governed by a body of spirit anointed men, likewise today the entire worldwide organization is directed by a group of mature Christian men called the governing body. These men have appointed other committees of Jehovah’s Witnesses to direct the worldwide preaching work.

Branch facilities include a home named Bethel. That is a Bible word meaning "House of God," an appropriate name for the type of work that is being done. Known as the Bethel family, thousands of men and women from various backgrounds freely volunteer their time and talents. Everything they do at Bethel is ultimately linked to Jesus' command to preach the good news of the Kingdom in all the earth.

The Writing Department provides spiritual information that is prepared in the form of magazines, brochures, books, and booklets for the entire organization. The research is careful and thorough. The information - reliable and authoritative. The purpose of the Watchtower magazine is to exalt Jehovah God as Sovereign Lord of the universe. It encourages faith in God's now reigning king Jesus Christ. It comforts all peoples with good news of God's Kingdom and keeps watch on world events as they fulfill Bible prophecy. Awake! magazine shows how to cope with today's problems by using the Bible. It points to the real meaning behind current events, yet always remains politically neutral and does not elevate one race above another. Most important, Awake! builds confidence in the Creator's promise of a paradise earth.

In order to spread the good news, translators are vital. The Watchtower magazine is printed simultaneously in more than 140 languages, adding to the unity of this international organization. The Bible is the main textbook of Jehovah's Witnesses. The Translation Services Department provides help for translation of the Bible and other publications into many different languages. Computer programs speed up the process of translation and improve its accuracy. Printing Bible literature in over 400 languages requires a large array of character sets. Jehovah's Witnesses designed a unique multilanguage electronic phototypesetting system known as MEPS to compose pages in the languages being printed. By using MEPS life saving literature reaches people in many languages.

This message is also enhanced through pictures. In addition to artwork scenes are staged and photographed for use in our publications.

Electronic files of publications are made available to printing branches around the world. These branches then print and distribute the literature to the congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses in their respective geographical regions. Printeries in various countries produce magazines and also bind in book form Bible literature. The largest of these is located near the town of Wallkill, New York USA. Jehovah's Witnesses began their own printing operations in New York in 1920. The purpose then - and now - PUBLISH BIBLE TRUTH. What is printed here can mean life to the reader. Jesus said at John 17:3: "This means everlasting life, their taking in knowledge of you, the only true God, and of the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ."

To keep up with the growing printing demands of Jehovah's Witnesses, high-speed presses are required. In one year nearly 2 billion pieces of literature are printed. In the bindery printed pages become bound books. Signatures of books are assembled and glued together on high-speed equipment. Nearly 1.7 million bound books and Bibles are produced each month by just the Walkill printery. The same type of work is done at various branches strategically situated around the world.

These books are more than ink and paper. Bible based publications have changed thinking, attitudes, habits, and the very personalities of millions of persons, young and old. The Bible states at Hebrews 4:12 that "the word of God is alive and exerts power... and [is] able to discern thoughts and intentions of [the] heart." All publications produced here focus on the book most used by Jehovah's Witnesses - the Bible. The New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures is an accurate easy to understand fresh translation of God's Word designed for Bible study. The number of printed copies passed the 1 million mark at the turn of this century.

In addition to printed publications, audio and video programs also communicate Bible truth. By means of DVDs and CDs the Audio/Video Services Department produces programs in many languages that reach millions worldwide. While producing audio/video programs and printed publications is one thing, shipping them is another.

Congregation literature orders are first gathered and packed. Later they are sorted for distribution. In addition to the Shipping Department at Walkill, similar operations are cared for at the other printery locations worldwide. While a number of branches print and bind books, much literature still must be shipped to other countries in each geographic region. From initial research and writing to printing and binding, as much as 2 years may have elapsed. Now lifesaving literature is on its way!

The visually impaired are reached with the good news through the New World Translation and dozens of other Bible publications in Braille. Text from the Writing Department is converted into Braille and publications are embossed. Each issue of the Watchtower magazine is available to the visually impaired by subscription.

The deaf and hearing-impaired are also reached with the good news by means of Bible publications translated into sign language and recorded on video. While American Sign Language is used in many countries, approval has been given to produce Bible literature in more than 35 different sign languages worldwide.

Witnesses place a high value on life and desire the best medical treatment available. Based on Bible injunctions in both the ancient Hebrew and in the

Christian Greek Scriptures, blood transfusion is not a medical option for Jehovah's Witnesses earth wide. To assist in this area, the Hospital Information Services Department researches medical literature to keep up to date with rapidly advancing alternatives to blood transfusion. Such alternatives are now widely accepted and used by physicians worldwide. Hospital Information Services also provides training for thousands of elders who serve on some 1,500 Hospital Liaison Committees. These committees seek out skilled physicians who are willing to provide care without donor blood.

The Service Department in each branch territory manages the preaching activity. They also correspond with traveling overseers and record the efforts of Jehovah's Witnesses in the field ministry each month.

With thousands of new congregations being formed each year there is a constant demand for more Kingdom Halls. In many countries innovative quick construction methods are used.

Rapid growth in the number of Jehovah's Witnesses calls for expansion of many of the branches worldwide. How are they financed? All expenses are met by voluntary donations - no dues, tithes, or collections. Following the Bible principle, each one contributes as he has resolved in his heart.

The organization has become proficient in designing and engineering its own housing and printing buildings. At all Bethel facilities around the world, regular maintenance saves money. It keeps buildings and machinery in good order. Technicians and craftsmen work behind the scenes to keep the organization running smoothly. Many learn their skills after arriving at Bethel.

Patterson, New York, home to an educational center, which promotes Bible instruction to the ends of the earth. This facility has schools for overseers of Jehovah's Witnesses who care for responsibilities in congregations, circuits, districts, and branches. The intense Bible education these ones receive in class assists them to advance the preaching work in their assigned territories. Similar classes have been instituted in various countries for the benefit of traveling overseers regionally. These mature Christian men care for the preaching work in their respective branch territories. These classes ensure consistent Bible based direction for millions around the globe.

Another aspect of this facility is the Watchtower Bible School of Gilead. Founded in 1943, it trains two classes of students each year. An intensive five-month Bible course prepares them for missionary assignments all around the world. Gilead students share the results of their long hours of research by giving reports to the class. Gilead graduation at the Watchtower Educational Center – this is a special day for all in attendance! These students, and thousands like them, have graduated from Gilead and have entered the missionary field. This involves sharing the good news along jungle rivers of South America and by

flying into remote and isolated villages where interested persons are located. Bible truth seeps into far flung regions. Indeed, to the most distant part of the earth.

A day at Bethel begins just as it does for many families of Jehovah's Witnesses all around the world, with a discussion of a Bible text. Personal study is another part of the regular spiritual feeding program. Quiet places are found in Bethel libraries. At Bethel branches around the world Monday night is set aside for the family Watchtower study. This helps them prepare for their own congregation meetings. In their public preaching work the Bethel family uses the very publications they have produced. United States Bethel - home to a large family. Who cooks the meals? Washes the laundry? Keeps house? In order for the Bethel family to make a neat appearance as ministers tons of laundry are cleaned every week. Hard work makes for a hearty appetite. The kitchen fills the need with a nutritious meal served seven days a week.

Annual conventions are a spiritual highlight for Jehovah's Witnesses around the globe. They follow the Bible precedent set in ancient Israel. Arrangements for conventions begin with the Convention Department. Careful thought is given to convention location and size. Arrangements are made for these large gatherings in all parts of the earth. At times, delegates from other countries join local witnesses for a truly international gathering that demonstrates the worldwide unity found in Bible based beliefs and morality. In addition to such large-scale annual conventions, periodically 10 to 20 congregations from a local circuit have one or two day assemblies. Here, young and old alike share encouraging experiences. Sound Bible counsel is given on a vast array of subjects so as to maintain a high moral standard, to avoid common pitfalls of life, and to strengthen family ties and marriages.

Even more instrumental to the shaping of wholesome Christians are the regular meetings that are held three days a week in upwards of 100,000 congregations. Here scriptural insight is given on a variety of topics so that all can benefit from Theocratic Ministry School education.

In addition to congregation meetings, new ones can progress spiritually by studying with a mature Christian minister. After thoroughly studying Bible standards and conforming their lives to them, new witnesses are baptized in symbol of their dedication to God. Not an end, but the beginning of an expanded ministry – sharing Bible truth with others.

Imagine paradise restored on earth! Billions will be resurrected. They will need to be educated in God's ways. There will be much work to do to accommodate them. What a joy the new world will be - the spirit of peace and Christian brotherhood earth wide! "Lift up your eyes and view the fields," said Jesus "that they are white for harvesting." Since those words were spoken millions have been gathered, and the harvest continues today. Who are included in the

harvest? Honest hearted persons who long for better conditions on the earth, people who develop a genuine love for truth by earnestly studying the Bible and sincerely applying its message in their daily lives. And as love of the good news grows so does the desire to share it with others. Jehovah Witnesses as an organization are well equipped to share the good news with people of all nations before the end comes. To that end, the building of branch facilities, assembly halls, and Kingdom Halls have served to accommodate the influx of all those being taught by Jehovah. With God's new world close at hand it may be that many of these fine facilities will continue to be used as centers of education and this education will continue until the earth will "certainly be filled with the knowledge of Jehovah as the waters are covering the very sea."

Jehovah's Witnesses -Organized to Share the Good News

For over 100 years, Jehovah's Witnesses have been organized to share the good news. In what has become the greatest preaching campaign the world has ever known, we speak this message in hundreds of languages and in more than 230 lands. (Matt. 24:14) Why is this work necessary?

How is it being accomplished on a global scale? The video Jehovah's Witnesses-Organized to Share the Good News answers those questions by providing a close-up look at the many facets of our international activities. After watching the video, give consideration to the following questions.

How has this video enhanced your appreciation for

(1) ?s organization is making to share the good news'the effort Jehovah (2 Tim. 4:2)

(2) the Bethel families around the world?

(3) the educational training provided for missionaries and overseers? (2 Tim. 2:2)

(4) the importance of starting each day considering a Bible text and preparing each week for congregation meetings? (Acts 17:11)

(5) the benefits of attending our Christian gatherings? (Heb. 10:24, 25)

(6) the blessings you will receive when Paradise is restored on earth? (Isa. 11:9)

(7) the privilege you have to share in the ongoing harvest work?-John 4:35.

This video has proved to be an excellent tool for acquainting interested people with the worldwide work being done by Jehovah's Witnesses.

(8) When would it be good to show the video to our Bible students, relatives, and others?

(9) What positive reaction have you seen when showing it?

As we reflect on what Jehovah is accomplishing, we are moved to echo these sentiments of the psalmist: "Many things you yourself have done, O Jehovah my God, even your wonderful works and your thoughts toward us; there is none to be compared to you." (Ps. 40:5) May we make good use of this video to help others develop appreciation for Jehovah and his organization!