

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **April and May:** Subscriptions to *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* for \$10.00 each for one year or \$5.00 each for six months. Have the *Require* brochure available for interested people for a contribution of 50c, and endeavour to start home Bible studies. **June:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* for \$1.50.

■ The question has been asked whether elders should supply information to secular authorities when they learn that a brother or sister has been involved in a serious crime. Information provided to elders is treated as confidential and is not discussed with others who are not involved. (*w71* 4/1, pp. 222-4) All Christians are counselled by God's Word to be law-abiding, and they are to pay to Caesar what is Caesar's where there is no conflict with God's laws. (Matt. 22:21; *w90* 11/1 pp. 10-15, 18-28) When Christians obey Caesar's laws that are not in conflict with God's laws, they have no need to "fear" being punished by the authorities as law-breakers, and can maintain a good conscience. (Rom. 13:3, 4) If an elder learns of some serious crime on the part of a member of the congregation, they may, in some circumstances, be obliged to report the matter, or provide information to secular authorities. It is not the responsibility of the elders to enforce Caesar's laws, but the very nature of some crimes demand that they be reported, or that they be handled by Caesar, for this is the "arrangement of God." (Rom. 13:2) Even in such cases, it is important that the elders maintain confidentiality to the extent possible, and elders should *always* contact the Society *before* providing any information on confidential matters to secular authorities. Elders prove to be a "hiding place from the wind" to all in the con-

gregation who are truly repentant. (Isa. 32:2) They try to readjust such a person, no matter how serious the sin committed. (Gal. 6:1) However, while Jehovah forgives repentant sinners, there may be consequences of the sinner's actions that cannot be avoided. Depending on the law of the land, the sinner may have to serve a prison term or face other sanctions. The congregation will not protect him from this.—*w97* 1/1, p. 29.

■ The *Question Box* in the March, 1998 issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* emphasized the need to maintain appropriate dress and grooming when visiting Bethel. Therein it stated, "Remember the name Bethel means 'House of God,' so our dress, grooming, and conduct should be similar to what is expected of us when attending meetings for worship at the Kingdom Hall." Publishers are reminded that when inviting their Bible students or other visitors to Bethel they should ensure that they too are appropriately dressed, especially if associating with the Bethel family in the dining room. It is important that this standard be adhered to, thus avoiding embarrassment for all those concerned. We want your visit to Bethel to be upbuilding for you and any interested ones you invite.

■ Congregation secretaries should maintain an adequate supply of the following pioneer forms: Application for Regular Pioneer Service (S-205), Application for Auxiliary Pioneer Service (S-205b) and Notification for Discontinuing Regular Pioneer Service (S-206). These can be ordered on the Literature Order Form (S-14). Maintain at least a one-year supply. Review the regular pioneer application form to make sure it is complete. If applicants cannot recall the exact date of their baptism, they should estimate the date and keep a record of it.

■ New Publications Available:
1999 Calendar —Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Portuguese, Turkish

Examining the Scriptures Daily 1999

—Croatian, Czech, German, Greek, Hungarian, Macedonian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Turkish

Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?

—Albanian, Macedonian

Sing Praises to Jehovah—Large Print (lyrics only)

—Greek

T-23 Jehovah—Who Is He?

—Indonesian

The Bible—God's Word or Man's?

—Amharic

The Secret of Family Happiness

—Armenian

Watchtower Publications Index 1996

—Italian

What Happens to Us When We Die?

—Hebrew, Persian

When Someone You Love Dies

—Amharic

■ New Audiocassettes Available:

Why Respect Theocratic Arrangements? (Drama, single cassette)

—Japanese

■ Publications Available Again:

Does God Really Care About Us?

—Greek, Italian, New Guinea Pidgin

Good News for All Nations

—Greek

Jehovah's Witnesses—Unitedly Doing God's

Will Worldwide

—Bislama

My Book of Bible Stories

—Bulgarian

New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures Reference Bible

—Greek

Sing Praises to Jehovah—Large Print (lyrics only)

—Croatian

T-21 Enjoy Family Life

—Tagalog

Theocratic Ministry School Guidebook

—New Guinea Pidgin, Russian

What Does God Require of Us?

—Albanian, Romanian

What Is the Purpose of Life? How Can You Find It?

—Albanian, Croatian, Greek

■ Audiocassettes Available Again:

Jehovah Delivers Those Calling Upon His Name (Drama)

—Croatian

■ Videocassettes Available Again:

Jehovah's Witnesses—The Organization Behind the Name

—Macedonian

Do You Have a Standing Order?

¹ Have you ever gone to a meeting for field service and discovered that you had no magazines in your witnessing bag? Well, recall the September 1995 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert entitled "Make the Best Use of Our Magazines." It told us to "have a definite magazine order," stating: "Place a realistic order with the brother handling magazines for a definite number of copies of each issue. In this way, you and your family will have a regular and adequate supply of magazines." Have you done this?

² Why not place a standing order for magazines? You will feel a greater responsibility to distribute the magazines week by week, and you will experience increased joy in doing so. If you already have a standing order, re-evaluate whether you are obtaining the amount that you need for an average month in the ministry. Of course, we want to be faithful in picking up our order every week and should feel an obligation to do so. If you are going to be away from the congregation for an

extended time, let the magazine servant know whether you want him to release your magazines to someone else until you return.

³ The same insert quoted in paragraph 1 also said that we should "schedule a regular magazine day." Can you support the weekly Magazine Day? As shown on the *1999 Calendar of Jehovah's Witnesses*, this is every Saturday of the year! Do not underestimate the importance of distributing *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* When we make an effort to share fully in magazine activity, we are "bringing good news of something better" to our neighbours.—Isa. 52:7.