

Jehovah's Witnesses in the Community



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**“You must love your neighbor
as yourself.”**

—Matthew 22:39



Jehovah's Witnesses view it as an essential responsibility to obey Jesus' command to “love your neighbor as yourself.” They treat their neighbors the way they would like to be treated, devoting considerable time, effort, and resources to helping others in various ways.

EDUCATION WORK

Jehovah's Witnesses benefit from their study of the Bible and feel impelled to share what they have learned with their neighbors. They offer free Bible study courses. One-on-one Bible instruction has helped individuals to control violent behavior, overcome drug abuse, conquer racial prejudice, and live in peace with others. Their public meetings focus on helping attendees learn how to apply the Bible's advice in everyday life. Many families have learned to use Bible principles to help them cope with the challenges of life and to strengthen family bonds.

Officials around the world have recognized the benefits of the educational work of Jehovah's Witnesses. The Witnesses' official website, jw.org, provides beneficial information in over 1,000 languages. Their publications are also available in more than 100 sign languages and in nearly 50 languages in braille. The Witnesses' literacy programs have taught hundreds of thousands to read and write. Witness volunteers conduct prison ministries to help rehabilitate inmates.

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HUMANITARIAN AID

Jehovah's Witnesses place a high priority on disaster preparedness. When disasters strike, the Witnesses are prepared to take immediate action to provide practical assistance. Volunteers are organized by Disaster Relief Committees to provide basic necessities, medical supplies, and temporary or permanent housing. At times, Witness health-care professionals provide medical support. In addition to aiding in physical recovery work, the Witnesses provide ongoing emotional and spiritual support.

In many countries, Jehovah's Witnesses are helping an increasing number of immigrants and refugees to adjust to a new environment, a new language, and a new culture. They offer comfort to those who suffer tragedy or loss.



A certificate of merit was given to Jehovah's Witnesses in St. Petersburg, Russia, for their yearly cleanup of litter

BIBLE PRINCIPLES

"You must love your neighbor as yourself."

—**Matthew 22:39**

"All things, therefore, that you want men to do to you, you also must do to them."

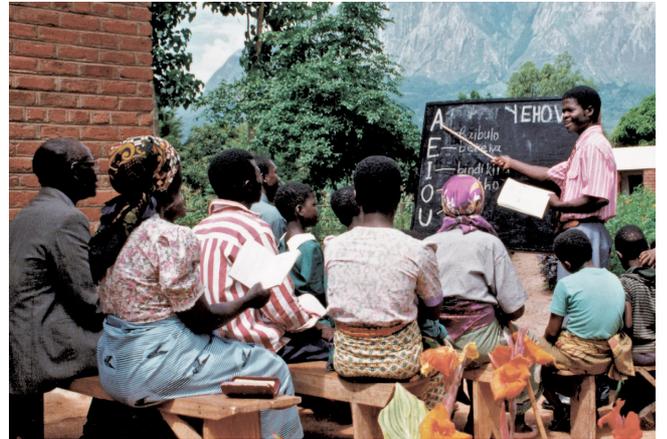
—**Matthew 7:12**



Miguel Merino, from Spain, was a drug dealer who began his criminal life when he was 12. From the age of 16, he was repeatedly in and out of prison and became a hardened criminal. He said, "I was convinced that I would die in prison." The Witnesses visited Miguel in prison and encouraged him to make changes. They helped him to overcome bad habits and to progress to the point where he could help other prisoners learn about the Bible. Since his release, he has not returned to a life of crime.

SERVICE THAT BENEFITS THE COMMUNITY

- **Disaster Relief:** During flooding in Hungary in June 2013, more than 900 Witnesses responded to a call by the Hungarian Ministry of Human Resources. The volunteers collaborated with local authorities in flood-prevention work. A member of the Hungarian Parliament acknowledged their support.
- **Literacy Classes:** In 2001, a radio report highlighted comments that the president of Mozambique made about the Witnesses. He referred to their “valuable contribution to society in solving the educational problems that this country still faces.”
- **Disease Prevention:** During the recent deadly Ebola outbreaks in Africa, the Witnesses provided instructive programs outlining preventive safeguards and promoting adherence to community quarantines. They set up handwashing stations at their places of worship and encouraged others to take similar measures. Two public health officials in the Democratic Republic of Congo sent letters of appreciation for the Witnesses’ exemplary conduct and for their cooperation during the crisis.
- **Community Development:** Officials in Thailand use literature published by Jehovah’s Witnesses to educate public officials on such topics as parenting effectively, preventing domestic violence, and improving mental and physical health. Chaiwat Saengsri, director of a center for training community leaders in Nakhon Nayok Province, stated: “I’m impressed by the Witnesses because the goal of their work is very clear. . . . We have a common goal to assist our community in raising their standards so they can have peace and a better quality of life.”



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