

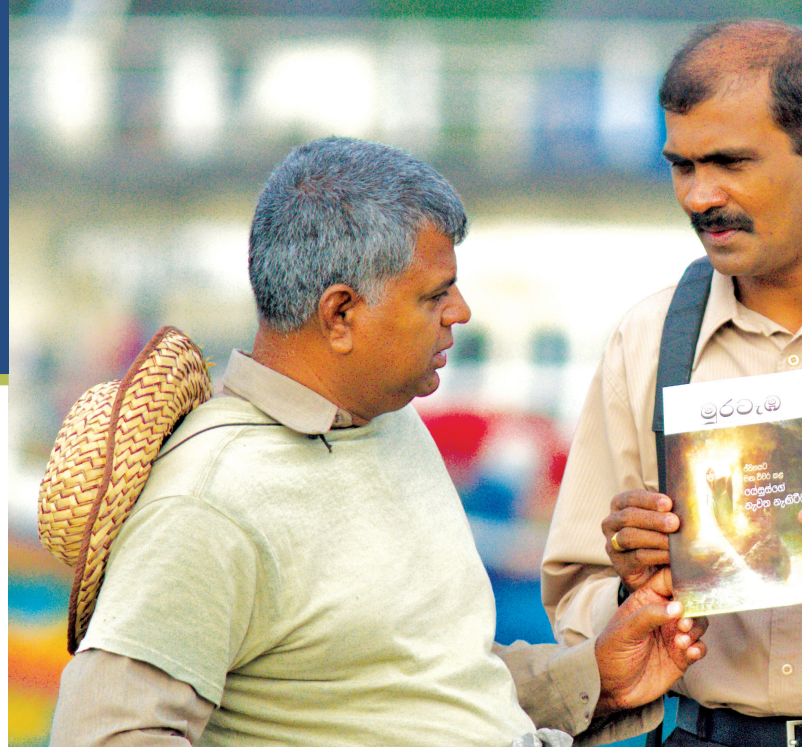
Jehovah's Witnesses and Their Public Ministry



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**“I did not hold back from telling
you . . . publicly and from house
to house.”**

—Acts 20:20



THEIR OBJECTIVE

Jehovah's Witnesses consider discussing the Bible with others to be a fundamental part of their worship. They enjoy speaking with people from all cultures and backgrounds. Their educational work is based on the wisdom found in the Bible. Their work benefits the community by helping individuals to live by sound principles, to improve their life, and to be better members of society.

THEIR MESSAGE

Jehovah's Witnesses share a positive message of good news from the Bible. Their discussions focus on what the Scriptures say about important questions, such as:

Is there any hope for the dead?

Does God really care about us?

Why does God permit suffering?

What is the meaning of life?

What is the key to family happiness?

How can we get to know God better?

The Witnesses are happy to engage in brief conversations with people who show interest. They offer free Bible lessons in person and online without any cost or obligation. In some public places, free Bible literature is made available in multiple languages from mobile display carts at various locations.

THEIR METHOD

Jehovah's Witnesses recognize and respect that people have their own beliefs and opinions. They do not pressure people to listen to them. They appreciate that the decision to adopt or change a religion is up to each individual. In their public ministry, they observe privacy laws and respect the property rights of individuals. The methods Witnesses use to conduct their ministry avoid confrontation and do not disrupt harmony.

Jehovah's Witnesses wish to share their message with as many people as possible, regardless of nationality, ethnicity, religion, or social status. They are attentive to people who have special challenges, such as those who are hearing or visually impaired, prisoners, refugees, and people who speak minority languages. The Witnesses also conduct literacy classes and have helped hundreds of thousands of people to learn to read, many in remote villages where there are no schools.

Jehovah's Witnesses are not paid for sharing their beliefs with others. Each Witness decides how much time to spend in his or her personal outreach ministry. A teaching program for all Witnesses is organized on a local level to help them prepare for their ministry. This includes training on how to show respect and kindness when sharing Bible beliefs and when helping those in distress.



POSITIVE EFFECTS

Many people who study the Bible with Jehovah's Witnesses have made drastic changes in their lives and have made meaningful contributions to the community.

Miguel Merino from Spain, was a drug dealer who began his criminal life when he was 12 years old. From the age of 16, he was repeatedly imprisoned and soon 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. After his release from prison, he never returned to a life of crime.



In 2015, officials from the state of Baja California, Mexico, presented Jehovah's Witnesses with a certificate of appreciation for their Bible education work in state penitentiaries. The certificate reads: "The state government, through the secretary of public security, grants appreciation to Jehovah's Witnesses for their invaluable support, dedication, work, and commitment to the Baja California community; contributing to the enhancement of the quality of life and thereby strengthening social reintegration."



Nabiha Lazarova, from Bulgaria, had a troubled childhood. Her father left home when she was six years old. She often ran away from home and stole money from her mother and grandparents. Because of her violent temper, she was expelled from several different schools. She was imprisoned for engaging in illegal drug trafficking. After studying the Bible with the Witnesses, who visited her in prison, she broke free from drugs, found purpose in her life, and was eventually released. She is now happily married and helps drug addicts, alcoholics, and criminals to reform their lives.

Jehovah's Witnesses share the good news of the Bible and do not comment on social or political issues



BIBLE PRINCIPLES

“I did not hold back from telling you any of the things that were profitable nor from teaching you publicly and from house to house.”

—*Acts 20:20*

“You received free, give free.”

—*Matthew 10:8*

“As far as it depends on you, be peaceable with all men.”

—*Romans 12:18*

Jehovah’s Witnesses do not force their beliefs on anyone and conduct their ministry in a peaceful manner



LEGAL PROVISIONS

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR):

- Article 19.2 “Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice.”

The following international and regional human rights instruments outline similar provisions:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 19
- The American Convention on Human Rights, Article 13
- The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), Article 10
- The African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, Article 9
- The ASEAN Human Rights Declaration, Article 23