

New series of continuing educational programs

1,800 members from local and area congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses are slated to attend a new series of continuing educational programs in Norval, Ont., Jan. 16 and 17.

This religious program, organized for the whole family, is designed to help all family members appreciate practical creation as well as spiritual matters.

As an example, one item we take so much for granted, like The Earth's Waterworks is discussed.

What would you think if you were offered a glass of water and told that it had been used before? Disgusting, you might say. But actually every drop of water you drink or use has already been used many times. The fact is that all the water that there is has been around for thousands of years and the quantity has remained virtually unchanged. The same water has been recycled over and over again - the process that sustains all living things on earth.

How Much Water Is There?

Water is so abundant that it is usually measured by the cubic mile. One cubic mile has more than 1,000,000,000,000 (or one million million) gallons, and there are 326 million cubic miles of water on earth.

All but about three percent of this huge amount of water is in the mighty oceans. Of the three percent that is freshwater, over two thirds is locked up in the polar icecaps and glaciers. So the amount of water that is available and suitable for domestic, agricultural and industrial use is less than two thirds of one percent of all the water on earth.

Of this small fraction, 97 percent exists underground, some as much as three miles down. Thus the water in all the streams, rivers, ponds, lakes and inland seas of the world adds up to less than one fiftieth of one percent of the total supply.

How Much Water Is Recycled?

Each year, the sun draws about 95,000 cubic miles of water from the earth-80,000 cubic miles from the oceans and 15,000 cubic miles from land. This amounts to 3,600 million gallons a second. In just seven seconds, the sun pumps more water than all the public waterworks in the U.S.A. do in 24 hours. All of this eventually returns to the earth as rain, snow, sleet, hail, frost and dew. Most of it falls right into the ocean, but about one quarter of it, or 24,000 cubic miles, comes down on land. From these figures, you can see that the land actually receives more water than it gives. The surplus is what keeps the rivers and streams flowing, even during dry season.

How Much Rain Does Fall?

If the rain that falls in one year came down all at once, the whole earth would be covered with three feet of water. The actual distribution, though, is very uneven.

Annual rainfall varies from just 0.03 inches at Arica in northern Chile to 1,041 inches at Cherrapunji, India. However, it is the variation from year to year that creates the shortages that affect

large numbers of people.

As a whole, the rain that falls on land in a year is more than 10 times the water in Lake Superior, the largest of the five Great Lakes. It is enough to supply

every person on earth with 17,000 gallons of freshwater each day - a generous and abundant supply indeed. As in so many other things, the need is not for more, but for better management of what we have.

Consideration of these subjects help young and old alike to appreciate the love expressed by their Creator and the need to better manage the priceless, irreplaceable resources He has provided for all

mankind.

Witnesses feel that an appreciation of God's handiwork helps them better demonstrate love for their fellowman and build stronger family relationships.

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