

government guarantees freedom of worship." His answer was that the priests had put pressure on the ministers in the government, resulting in the ban. At any rate, after that, he would turn his back every time we crossed the border to Argentina!

For four years we worked in Villazón. My partner studied with a man whose wife operated a *chicheria*, a tavern where drinks made from fermented corn are sold. This man learned the truth and was later baptized, eventually serving as an elder until his death. The *chicheria*? Now it is a Kingdom Hall! When we left Villazón, there was a congregation of 20 publishers. Now there are some 60 Witnesses, with about 110 attending the weekend meetings.

Never 'Looking Back'

After Villazón came an assignment in Santa Cruz, a city in the eastern part of

Bolivia. What a joy it was to see the work grow from a small congregation of 20 publishers to nine thriving congregations. Then, in 1965, I returned to live in La Paz in one of the missionary homes, where I have been ever since.

In February 1978 an adobe wall collapsed and fell on me as I was getting off a city bus. My right leg was so severely broken that I had to learn to walk again. But now I am able to get back into the service and conduct Bible studies.

No, full-time service has not always been easy. There have been ups and downs, heartaches and disappointments. But the joy of finding sheeplike persons and helping them to serve Jehovah has more than made up for any disappointments. Now, after nearly 44 years of full-time service, I am as determined as ever to keep my 'hand to the plow' and have a share in the work that is yet to be done.

—As told by Betty Jackson.

Questions From Readers

■ Why have Jehovah's Witnesses disfellowshipped (excommunicated) for apostasy some who still profess belief in God, the Bible, and Jesus Christ?

Those who voice such an objection point out that many religious organizations claiming to be Christian allow dissident views. Even some clergymen disagree with basic teachings of their church, yet they remain in good standing. In nearly all the denominations of Christendom, there are modernists and fundamentalists who greatly disagree with one another as to the inspiration of the Scriptures.

However, such examples pro-

vide no grounds for our doing the same. Why not? Many of such denominations allow widely divergent views among the clergy and the laity because they feel they cannot be certain as to just what is Bible truth. They are like the scribes and Pharisees of Jesus' day who were unable to speak as persons having authority, which is how Jesus taught. (Matthew 7:29) Moreover, to the extent that religionists believe in interfaith, they are obligated not

to take divergent beliefs too seriously.

But taking such a view of matters has no basis in the Scriptures. Jesus did not make common cause with any of the sects of Judaism. Jews of those sects professed to believe in the God of creation and in the Hebrew Scriptures, particularly the Law of Moses. Still, Jesus told his disciples to "watch out . . . for the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees." (Matthew 16:11, 12; 23:15) Note also how strongly the apostle Paul stated matters: "Even if we or an angel out of heaven were to

declare to you something beyond what is declared to you, you must not be accused of having preached that doctrine. —Gal

Teaching different views is not Christianity, as at 1 Corinthians to you, brothers, our Lord Jesus you agree with that there are among you who be perfectly thought." (New Mission) At Ephesians the stated that be "earnestly serve the one body there is as you were hope to which one Lord, one God and sons."

Was this and maintain dependently tures, coming sions, and the Not at all! The Jehovah God purpose "so some as evangelists shepherds as we all attain faith and in edge of the full-grown in help of such tional unity—and activities would be p 4:11-13.

Obviously, fellowship with nesses cannot belief in God Jesus Christ, a man Catholic Anglican Anglican burial, profes-