

# Announcements and Reminders

November 2021

## FOR ELDERS

1. **Ramapo Construction Project:** The first video in a series of update videos regarding the Ramapo project at world headquarters was shown to congregations in the United States branch territory in September 2021. Because of strict visa requirements in the United States, the majority of those who will be invited to work on the project are publishers living in the United States branch territory or citizens of the United States living in other countries. In some cases, a publisher from another country with a needed skill may be invited to work on the project. If an exemplary publisher in your congregation expresses a desire to make himself available for any construction project, including the Ramapo project, he should submit an *Application for Volunteer Program (A-19)* in the usual manner.

2. **Circuit Assembly With the Branch Representative Program During the 2022 Service Year:** As indicated in the announcement for affected congregations, no live circuit assembly with the branch representative (CA-br) programs will be held during the 2022 service year. On the assigned weekend, please organize the viewing of the assembly as follows:

- (1) A 30-minute *Watchtower* Study, with no reading of the paragraphs, should be considered by the congregation *before* the circuit assembly is viewed. If a videoconferencing tool, such as Zoom, is being used for congregation meetings, this tool should be used for the abbreviated *Watchtower* Study. Although the attendance count should be taken for the *Watchtower* Study, no count of those viewing the assembly is needed.
- (2) At the end of the *Watchtower* Study, announce that all who are able to do so should now view the circuit assembly using the JW Stream link provided by the elders. (See *Access to Programs on JW Stream by Elders and Ministerial Servants [S-142]*.) The elders may send the link to a disfellowshipped or disassociated person if he has regularly been attending congregation meetings. Announce that at the conclusion of the assembly, someone in the home can offer a prayer of thanksgiving.
- (3) After the announcement, sing the second song specified for the *Watchtower* Study and conclude with a prayer, acknowledging the circuit assembly to follow. The publishers can be encouraged to discuss with one another throughout the following week points that they enjoyed from the program.

### Additional Considerations:

- (1) If some publishers are unable to access JW Stream, the elders may transmit the recorded assembly program to such ones by means of a videoconferencing tool, such as Zoom. After the *Watchtower* Study, these individuals would stay connected to enjoy the program. The program should be downloaded in advance to the host's computer.
- (2) Be reasonable and flexible. Due to family circumstances or other reasons, some publishers or families may choose to view the program at other times.
- (3) Please make appropriate arrangements for any candidate(s) in your congregation who has been approved for baptism to be immersed locally. This should happen after the morning session is viewed, in accord with local circumstances. At the baptism, a local elder should ask the baptism candidate(s) the two questions appearing on page 206 of the *Organized* book and give him an opportunity to answer in the affirmative. The elder will then offer a prayer. Thereafter, the candidate(s) should be immersed.

(*sfl* chap. 11 pars. 16-17) Those performing baptisms should take necessary precautions in accord with guidelines provided by the secular authorities to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Please remember to report the number baptized to your circuit overseer. He will compile the number of baptisms in the circuit and send his report to the branch office.

### **FOR FIELD SERVICE GROUP OVERSEERS**

1. **Keeping *JW Library* Up-to-Date:** We encourage you to help all in your group, including those with limited technical ability, to keep their *JW Library* apps up-to-date. Other experienced publishers can be used to help as needed.

### **FOR SERVICE OVERSEERS**

1. **2022 Convention Invitations:** In preparation for the possible distribution of printed invitations for the 2022 conventions, each congregation should submit a request by **Friday, December 3, 2021**, using the item number 75822 or the mnemonic *CO-inv22*. When determining the quantity of printed invitations to request, please keep in mind that publishers will be encouraged to use electronic invitations if possible. If a request is not received from your congregation by the due date or if it appears that distribution will be limited further due to the pandemic, the branch office will determine the quantity to be sent to your congregation.

### **FOR COORDINATORS OF THE BODIES OF ELDERS**

1. **Announcements for Congregations:** Please ensure that the announcements for congregations are read at the next midweek meeting.

2. **Midweek Meeting Part “Are You Prepared for a Medical Emergency?”:** Assign a qualified elder to deliver the talk “Are You Prepared for a Medical Emergency?” the week of December 27, 2021, in place of the 15-minute local needs part. The outline for this talk is attached. The video *How to Make Health-Care Decisions Regarding Blood*, from lesson 39 of the *Enjoy Life Forever!* book, will also be accessible in *JW Library* by going to MEDIA > OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY > MIDWEEK MEETINGS. If your congregation has a circuit assembly the week of December 27, you may determine whether the talk should be delivered the previous week in place of the 15-minute part “*From Youth, a Life Dedicated to Jehovah*” or the following week in place of the 15-minute part “*The Bible Saved Our Marriage*.”

## Are You Prepared for a Medical Emergency?

PLEASE NOTE: As you emphasize the need to be prepared for a medical emergency, build appreciation for the resources and support that Jehovah's organization has provided

### PREPARE NOW FOR A MEDICAL EMERGENCY (12 min.)

Since a medical emergency can occur at any time, usually when we least expect it, we must take steps now to safeguard ourselves and our children from the misuse of blood (Pr 22:3)

Lesson 39 of the *Enjoy Life Forever!* book is an excellent resource to help us understand God's view of blood and make medical decisions that please Jehovah

Please watch the following video, *How to Make Health-Care Decisions Regarding Blood*, which is included in lesson 39 **[Play video (approx. 6 min.)]**

Advance preparation involves prayerfully considering the Bible's law regarding blood (Ac 15:28, 29)

Four basic steps will help you make important decisions in advance

- (1) Carefully and prayerfully fill out a durable power of attorney (DPA) card. Baptized publishers may obtain a DPA card at any time from the literature servant. They may also obtain an *Identity Card* (ic) for their minor children
- (2) If you are pregnant, request a copy of *Information for Expectant Mothers* (S-401) from the elders. This document will help you to make good decisions about medical issues that occur during and after pregnancy (Pr 16:16)
- (3) When you anticipate a surgery or hospital stay, seek the assistance of the Hospital Liaison Committee (HLC) through your local elders. Brothers serving on the HLC are specially trained to help those in the medical and legal communities understand our religious position regarding blood. The HLC can assist with
  - Finding a cooperative doctor (either for you or for your children)
  - Speaking to physicians regarding medical alternatives to blood
- (4) If you expect to be hospitalized, inform your elders in advance and inform the hospital that you would welcome a visit from a minister of Jehovah's Witnesses

[There is no need to develop points from the following articles, but you may mention key points that apply to your area: *g15.07* 14-15; *g15.06* 2-7; *g01* 11/22 27]

### HOW ELDERS CAN HELP (2 min.)

Elders are interested in the physical and spiritual needs of each one in the congregation

Your field service group overseer can assist you if you have special medical needs or are facing a situation that may involve the blood issue

The elders can assist you if you have questions about filling out your DPA card

The elders will promptly contact the HLC on your behalf if you need medical care that may involve the blood issue

However, they will not make medical decisions for you or express their personal views on matters of individual choice (Ro 14:12; Ga 6:5)

### CONCLUSION (1 min.)

It is possible to adhere to God's law regarding blood and receive quality nonblood medical care

Be prepared before an emergency arises

Take time to study prayerfully lesson 39 of the *Enjoy Life Forever!* book and review the video *How to Make Health-Care Decisions Regarding Blood*

With advance preparation, we can make medical decisions that please Jehovah and avoid the misuse of blood (Pr 27:11)

TO BE COVERED IN 15 MINUTES

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## FOR CONGREGATIONS

1. **Resuming In-Person Meetings in Selected Areas:** The Governing Body announced that they have invited selected branches to participate in a pilot program to resume some in-person congregation meetings. The branches participating will select Kingdom Halls in areas where vaccination rates are high and infection rates are low. Of course, all aspects of this project will be carried out in harmony with local government regulations for indoor gatherings. The announcement was read to Bethel families around the world on Friday, October 15, 2021. The results of this pilot program will determine if additional congregations can be approved to resume in-person meetings. The announcement also stated that, in general, in-person organizational activities will remain suspended until at least January 1, 2022. We greatly appreciate the Governing Body's care for the worldwide brotherhood and their measured approach to resuming organizational activities. Please pray for Jehovah's continued guidance and blessing on these arrangements.—Prov. 14:16.

2. **Personal Decisions During the Pandemic:** As a reminder, each *family head* must prayerfully consider how best to care for the physical and emotional needs of his family during this pandemic. This includes deciding whether to socialize with others *in person*, if this is considered safe in your area by “the superior authorities.” (Rom. 13:1) Whatever decisions you make, we are confident that you will reflect reasonableness as well as a high regard for the sanctity of life. Also, please show respect for the decisions that others make in such personal matters, recognizing that “each one will carry his own load.”—Gal. 6:5.

3. Although our house-to-house ministry and public witnessing continue to be suspended, some publishers have had good success witnessing *informally* as they go about their daily activities. When deciding whether it would be appropriate to witness informally, please consider the surroundings, your personal comfort level, and the comfort level of the individual to whom you are speaking. In many cases, you may be able to give a fine witness while demonstrating respect and consideration for the sensitivities of others.—1 Cor. 10:24.

4. **Keeping JW Library Up-to-Date:** New features are added regularly to the *JW Library* and *JW Library Sign Language* apps to assist in our personal study, at meetings, and in the ministry. It is important to keep the apps up-to-date so we can benefit from these new features. Most operating systems have a setting to enable automatic app updates.

5. Additionally, by the end of 2021, support for some older operating systems will be discontinued. New versions of the apps will require at least Android 5.1, iOS 12, or Windows 10 Version 1903. Therefore, some may need help to update their device operating system to the latest version. Older devices that cannot be updated will still be able to run the installed version of the app, but they will no longer receive app updates.

6. **Public Magazines:** The public edition of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* are designed to be used in any territory. However, some recent issues of the magazines may especially appeal to people of certain religions or cultural backgrounds. For example, *The Watchtower* No. 3 2020, with the cover series “Lasting Blessings From a Loving God,” may especially appeal to Muslims. *Awake!* No. 1 2021, with the cover series “Wisdom for Life and Happiness,” may especially appeal to Hindus. *The Watchtower* No. 3 2021, with the cover series “A Secure Future—How Can You Find It?,” may especially appeal to people in Asian lands or with an Asian cultural background.

**7. 2022 Regional Conventions:** The arrangements for the 2022 regional convention program will be similar to the arrangements for the conventions in 2020 and 2021. The prerecorded program will feature all Governing Body members and their helpers who host JW Broadcasting monthly programs. It will be translated into some 500 languages and posted on JW Broadcasting during the months of July and August.

**[Note: Only read the following announcement if your congregation is assigned to attend a circuit assembly with the branch representative (CA-br) during the months of January through August 2022.]**

**8. Circuit Assembly With the Branch Representative Program During the 2022 Service Year:** No live circuit assembly with the branch representative programs will be held during the 2022 service year. Therefore, the congregation will view the entire prerecorded assembly via JW Stream on the scheduled weekend. The elders will provide publishers and interested persons with a link to the video along with further direction as needed. As is the case with live circuit assemblies, no midweek meeting will be held and no local public talk will be presented that week. However, the congregation will hold an abbreviated *Watchtower* Study on the weekend.