

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

November 2018

Coordinator of the body of elders: The announcements and reminders **for the congregation** should be read at the next midweek meeting and thereafter posted on the information board for one month. (See point 4 below.)

FOR THE ELDERS ONLY

1. **2019 Convention Invitations:** As in previous years, there will be a concerted global effort to advertise the 2019 conventions. This campaign will begin three weeks before your assigned convention. Each congregation will automatically be consigned a quantity of 50 copies per publisher (this includes pioneers) only in the language of the congregation. This quantity will appear as “pending”. You may reduce or increase this amount at jw.org, **before December 3, 2018**, using item number **75819**. If you are sponsoring a foreign-language group, please request invitations in the language/s needed. A convention invitation in Braille will automatically be sent to publishers who regularly receive Braille items from the branch office. Additional invitations in Braille can be requested beginning January 1, 2019. Publishers will be allowed to leave convention invitations where no one is at home if the elders deem this to be practical.

2. ***Be Honest in All Things Video:*** At times it is learned that some of those applying to serve at Bethel or on theocratic construction projects apparently do not clearly understand the importance of being completely truthful when responding to the questions on the applications. As a result, some applicants have been invited to serve at Bethel or on theocratic construction projects although they do not actually meet the qualifications. Thereafter, it has been necessary for the elders at Bethel or on the construction projects to spend considerable time providing more than the usual emotional and spiritual assistance to such ones. Sometimes it is necessary for these ones to discontinue serving, and the many hours of valuable training that they received sadly are lost.

As noted in the attached announcement to the congregation, the *Be Honest in All Things* video has been prepared to address this matter. In harmony with the admonition found at James 5:14, the narrator of the video presentation explains that if an individual has become involved in unclean conduct or serious wrongdoing and the situation is unknown to the elders, he should inform his local elders. This will give them the opportunity to provide the necessary spiritual assistance to him *before* he submits the *Application for Volunteer Program (A-19)* or the *Application to Become a Member of the Worldwide Order of Special Full-Time Servants of Jehovah’s Witnesses (A-8)*. In addition, the video narrator explains that if the individual has significant health problems, he should not apply to serve with a Bethel or a design/construction enrollment. Instead, he should pursue other ways to expand his ministry. An additional question soon will be added to the aforementioned applications to prompt the applicant to confirm that he has viewed this video prior to submitting his application to the Congregation Service Committee.

The *Be Honest in All Things* video presentation will assist baptized Christians who have a desire to reach out for expanded theocratic service to take the necessary step of addressing any unresolved spiritual problems *before* they apply for special avenues of service. The video also will provide encouragement and reassurance to those who have significant health limitations that may prevent them from applying at this time.

3. **Contribution Box Labels:** As outlined in the August 2018 *Announcements and Reminders (S-147)* form, new contribution box labels have been provided for use in all Kingdom Halls. You will automatically receive a set of labels for each auditorium in your Kingdom Hall. Please ensure that these labels have been placed on your contribution boxes before the week of November 26, 2018. The

elder handling the part “A Gift in Hand for Jehovah” that week should mention the new labels and icons when covering the points regarding donations to the worldwide work and donations to care for local congregation expenses. Further details can be found in the August 2018 *Announcements and Reminders* form.

4. **Financial Assistance for India and Nepal:** Electronic donation methods are now available for qualified individuals to directly support the Kingdom work in India and Nepal. Although foreign entities are restricted in what they can donate to the legal entities in these lands, individuals from India or Nepal have fewer restrictions. Therefore, the attached relevant announcement should be read to all Indian- and Nepali-language congregations and groups. Otherwise, if there are individuals in your congregation who are of Indian or Nepali origin, please share the relevant congregation announcement with them to determine if they qualify for this unique opportunity to support the Kingdom work. Please arrange for any technical assistance they may need. The organization would like for them to consider directing all their donations to support the work in these lands. Please note, donations from individuals who do not meet the donor qualifications would be illegal for both the donor and the branch legal entity that receives the funds.

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November 2018

FOR THE CONGREGATION

1. ***Be Honest in All Things* Video:** Our hearts are warmed to see how many brothers and sisters have made themselves available for the privilege of serving at Bethel and on theocratic construction projects at Bethel and also in the field. (Ps. 110:3) Those applying to serve in these ways must meet high standards, having good physical, mental, and emotional health and enjoying a good standing in the congregation because of maintaining the elevated moral standards in God’s Word.

The Watchtower of October 2018, pages 9-10, paragraph 16, states: “Perhaps you wish to serve as a regular pioneer or in some feature of special full-time service, such as at Bethel. During the application process, it is important that you give honest and completely truthful answers to all the questions asked regarding your health, choices of entertainment, and morals.” To assist prospective applicants further, we are pleased to inform you that a six-minute video entitled *Be Honest in All Things* has been prepared. It is being made available on the *JW Library* app and on the “Video on Demand” section of JW Broadcasting. **We request that any baptized Christian who is interested in applying to serve at Bethel or on theocratic construction projects prayerfully view the video before completing and submitting an application to the elders.** At the same time, we feel sure that all in the congregation will appreciate the Bible principles that are discussed in the brief video presentation.

2. **Financial Assistance for India: (To be read only to Indian-language congregations and groups.)** At this time, *only* Indian citizens can send donations to the legal entities used for the Kingdom work in India. With this in mind, arrangements have been made to allow Indian citizens to provide needed support to Jehovah’s Witnesses in India using Visa and MasterCard credit and debit cards on donate.jw.org. If you are an Indian citizen, you have a unique opportunity to support the work in India. Please consider directing all your donations for Jehovah’s Witnesses to India. You may make donations by going to the website donate.jw.org, or by selecting the “Donations” icon on the home screen of the *JW Library* app and selecting “India” as the country. If you need assistance, please approach any of the elders. Additional ways Indian citizens can make donations to support the work in India can be found on this site. Please note, Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders are *not* considered citizens and should not make donations to India. To ensure that local legal regulations are complied with, *only* Indian citizens should make donations to India. (Rom. 13:1) You are truly to be commended for your support of pure worship as you continue to “honor Jehovah with your valuable things.”—Prov. 3:9.

3. **Financial Assistance for Nepal: (To be read only to Nepali-language congregations and groups.)** At this time, *only* Nepali citizens and Non-Resident Nepalese (NRNs) can send donations to the legal entity used for the Kingdom work in Nepal. With this in mind, arrangements have been made to allow Nepali citizens and NRNs to support the work of Jehovah’s Witnesses by electronic bank transfer directly to Nepal. Individuals who qualify may make a donation using any bank or financial institution that offers electronic bank transfer services to Nepal. If you are a Nepali citizen or an NRN, you have a unique opportunity to support the work in Nepal. Please consider directing all your donations for Jehovah’s Witnesses to Nepal. To use this feature, go to donate.jw.org, or select the “Donations” icon on the home screen of the *JW Library* app. Thereafter, select “Nepal” as the country, click “Contact Us” or “Request More Information,” and fill out the form to request the bank details for Nepal. An e-mail will be sent to you with the information requested. If you need assistance, please approach any of the elders. To ensure that local legal regulations are complied with, *only* Nepali citizens and NRNs should make donations to Nepal. (Rom. 13:1) You are truly to be commended for your support of pure worship as you continue to “honor Jehovah with your valuable things.”—Prov. 3:9.