

Elders Meet With Regular Pioneers, Special Pioneers, and Field Missionaries

PLEASE NOTE: This meeting is to be conducted in December 2020 or January 2021 by two elders selected by the body of elders. Other elders may attend. Encourage the pioneers always to rely on Jehovah for strength as they go through trials and as they focus on their ministry. The meeting should be positive, practical, and encouraging. The meeting includes a video, which will be made available to elders in the “Event Media” section of the “Documents” tab on jw.org

Theme: “The Sovereign Lord Jehovah Is My Strength” (Hab 3:19)

CONTINUE ON AS THE END DRAWS NEAR (3 min.)

We are witnessing the fulfillment of Bible prophecies indicating that we are very close to “the great day of Jehovah” (Zep 1:14; Lu 21:11)

Be emotionally and mentally prepared to experience future challenges (Hab 3:17; w00 2/1 24 ¶18-19)

Despite much tribulation, the prophets of old, such as Habakkuk, were able to endure in their assignments because they relied on Jehovah for strength **[Read Habakkuk 3:18, 19]**

We will discuss Bible examples and practical ways to strengthen our trust in Jehovah. We will also see how we can remain focused on our ministry with joy

THE APOSTLE PAUL PERSEVERED IN HIS ASSIGNMENT IN GOD’S STRENGTH (13 min.)

The apostle Paul faced many trials, including persecution and physical deprivation, as he carried out his full-time ministry (2Co 11:23-28)

Throughout *all* of his challenges, he persevered in his assignment in God’s strength (Ga 6:9; Php 4:13)

What helped Paul never to give up?

(1) He was adaptable (1Co 9:19-23)

(2) He remained spiritually strong (Heb 4:12; w08 5/15 22 ¶4-7)

(3) He was quick to follow Jehovah’s direction (Ac 16:9, 10; w12 1/15 9-10 ¶4-9)

Questions: How can you imitate the apostle Paul in being adaptable in your ministry? How can you continue to remain spiritually strong despite the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has presented to congregation meetings and the public ministry? Why is it especially important now to follow quickly the direction that Jehovah provides through his organization?

Because of the pandemic and the instability of the world situation, many are facing more trials than ever before

Some of you have lost jobs or have experienced illness, isolation, or other hardships

Jehovah will never abandon you as you seek his support **[Read Psalm 9:10]**

Question: During this past year, how have you personally experienced Jehovah’s support?

We persevere, not in our own strength, but in the extraordinary power that *only* God can give (2Co 4:7)

When struggling with feelings of discouragement, always look to Jehovah to sustain you (Isa 40:29-31; w18.01 8-9 ¶6-11)

With Jehovah as ‘our strength,’ there is no need to be fearful as life becomes more difficult (Ps 46:1, 2; Hab 3:19)

DEMONSTRATE COMPLETE TRUST IN JEHOVAH TODAY (14 min.)

We imitate the example of faithful servants of the past who put their faith in Jehovah's strength.

One such example was Hezekiah

Hezekiah trusted in Jehovah when facing serious threats from Sennacherib (w03 3/1 16-17 ¶14-17)

After taking reasonable practical steps, Hezekiah demonstrated his complete trust by humbly praying to Jehovah and asking for help

Jehovah answered his prayer, and Jerusalem was spared

Questions: Why does increasing our prayers to Jehovah also increase our trust in Jehovah?

What practical steps have you taken to make sure you have sufficient time for prayer each day? (w15 4/15 22-23 ¶11-15) [When we become aware of Jehovah's answers to our prayers, he becomes more real to us]

Demonstrating trust in Jehovah also involves trusting his organization and those whom he is using to take the lead

In recent times we have seen adjustments to our preaching work because of the pandemic.

Some pregroups and groups have been dissolved, and some congregations have been merged

Questions: Why are these organizational adjustments faith-strengthening to you? What other organizational adjustments have taken place that deepen your trust in God's organization?

Now more than ever before, it is important to demonstrate complete trust in Jehovah

WITH JEHOVAH'S HELP, STAY FOCUSED ON YOUR MINISTRY (15 min.)

Paul always remained focused on his ministry (Ac 28:16, 30, 31)

Paul maintained a positive attitude even as a prisoner [**Read Philippians 1:12-14; 4:13**]

Questions: What evidence do you see of Paul's positive attitude in these verses? What helped Paul to remain focused on his ministry?

Paul did not allow the negative impact of his trials to divert his attention from successfully fulfilling his ministry (2Ti 4:7)

As pioneers, concentrate on making disciples despite challenges to your ministry

This past year our ministry has been significantly affected

Despite the challenges of adjusting to other forms of witnessing, we want to keep a positive attitude

Our Teaching Toolbox helps us focus on the main goal of our ministry (Mt 28:19, 20)

Get to know the tools in the Teaching Toolbox (2Ti 2:15) [Highlight points from the article "Teaching the Truth," in the October 2018 edition of *The Watchtower*, pages 11-16, and encourage the pioneers to review it personally]

Questions: How do the tools in the Teaching Toolbox play a vital role in reaching the hearts of those who are rightly disposed? How can we use the Teaching Toolbox effectively in letter writing, phone witnessing, or informal witnessing?

By remaining focused on our ministry despite difficulties, we help others reach the essential step of baptism before the end comes

RELY ON JEHOVAH IN THE DISCIPLE-MAKING WORK (13 min.)

From the time we meet an interested person, we should have the goal of making a baptized disciple of Christ

Direct your attention to deserving ones, those who are rightly disposed (Ac 13:48)

Baptism means their salvation (1Pe 3:21; w18.03 5 ¶8)

[Play the video *Mark Sanderson: "Make Disciples . . . , Baptizing Them—Excerpt"* (approx. 2 min. 30 sec.)

Questions: What does 1 Corinthians 3:6, 7, teach us about our role in the disciple-making work? What are some ways we work closely with one another to plant and water seeds of Kingdom truth? Why is it important to remember that it is Jehovah who makes the truth grow in the hearts of individuals?

Because we deeply appreciate our role as Jehovah's fellow workers, we will do more than just place literature, make return visits, or start Bible studies. We will always keep in mind our goal of making disciples

Jehovah blesses our unselfish, unified work (1Co 3:5-9)

MAKE JEHOVAH 'THE STRONGHOLD OF YOUR LIFE' (2 min.)

Jehovah, through his organization, is helping us to adapt to unprecedented circumstances and to maintain focus on our ministry

Meditate deeply on how Jehovah is making you strong. Freely express to him your gratitude (1Sa 2:1, 2, 9)

May your complete trust in Jehovah strengthen and fortify you to continue in your service **[Read Psalm 27:1]**

TO BE COVERED IN 60 MINUTES

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