

Sociedad Dominicana de los Testigos de Jehová



Apartado de correos 1742, Autopista San Isidro Km. 8, Santo Domingo, República Dominicana
Teléfono (809) 595-4007 (salto automático) Fax (809) 595-3888 E-mail: jw@do.jw.org

CIRCUIT OVERSEER MEETS WITH ELDERS AND MINISTERIAL SERVANTS PROGRAM FROM MARCH 2010 THROUGH AUGUST 2010

Theme: “Let All Your Affairs Take Place With Love” (1Co 16:14)

[Please note: Inquiries have been received regarding whether an appointed elder or ministerial servant who regularly attends a congregation other than his home congregation for an extended period of time may attend this meeting each year. For example, some relocate to a warmer climate during the winter months and temporarily support a congregation in that area. In such situations, a brother may attend this meeting if his home congregation has sent a positive letter indicating how he may be used. Since the brother is not officially appointed in the temporary congregation, it is not necessary for the *Congregation’s Publisher Record* (S-21) cards to be transferred. Of course, even if the brother was serving as an elder in his home congregation, he would not remain for any discussion the circuit overseer has with the elders about local congregation matters such as recommendations. However, he would remain for any information the branch office directs to be covered after the dismissal of the ministerial servants]

INTRODUCTION (4 min.)

[Give specific, warm commendation for the work done by the elders and ministerial servants]

Love is an identifying mark of true Christians (Joh 13:34, 35)

As humans, we thrive when we feel loved

Since we are made in God’s image, we have the capacity to show love

Outsiders have observed this quality among Jehovah’s Witnesses when we are attending our large conventions, building Kingdom Halls, supporting our brothers in times of disaster, and working together in the field ministry

We need to cultivate love for Jehovah

The word “cultivate” can imply preparing and fostering the growth of something

Love must grow in our hearts and minds and permeate all our thoughts, words, and actions
Dedicated Christians realize that love must be manifest in all aspects of their lives (1Co 16:14)

What are some of the affairs of life in which the outstanding quality of love is needed?

IMITATE CHRIST—LOVE YOUR FAMILY (18 min.)

Natural love is lacking in today’s world—expectant mothers have abortions; people show no interest in their aged parents; divorce continues to break up families

It is apparent that among many families there is “no natural affection” (2Ti 3:1, 3)

In contrast, consider Jesus’ care for his apostles

Jesus showed keen interest in them

He was patient, considerate, and loving, and he provided for their needs (Mr 4:1, 2; 6:31; Joh 16:12) [Read Ephesians 5:25]

We demonstrate love for our wives and family by providing (1) emotional, (2) material, and (3) spiritual support

Providing emotional support shows our love for our family

Just as Christ expressed love for the congregation, a husband must show love for his mate in both word and deed (*w09 5/15 19*)

Providing materially shows our love for our family (1Ti 5:8)

Questions: What makes it a challenge to provide materially and emotionally for our families? What can be the result if we choose to simplify our lifestyle in order to keep Kingdom interests first?

Each of us should ask ourselves: Do I trust Jehovah's ability to care for my family while keeping Kingdom interests first? (Mt 6:33)

Imitate Jesus by caring for your families' spiritual needs (Joh 15:15)

Questions: What have you done to ensure that your family worship remains regular? What effect has your family worship had on your family and on you?

In imitation of Jesus, love your children (Mr 10:13-16)

Show love by remaining aware of your children's association

Do you know who your children's friends are? Who do they communicate with via text messaging, e-mail, and the Internet? (*fy 95-97 pars. 14-18*) Have you discussed with them the dangers of chatting online with individuals they know little about? (*g08 10 4-9; w06 3/1 24 par. 9*)

Love for our family is tested when a member has been disfellowshipped

Question: What are the benefits when family members support the decision? (*lv 207-209*)

You are to be commended for your Christlike efforts to be loving providers for your wives and children

LET LOVE MOVE YOU TO MAINTAIN A GOOD CONSCIENCE (14 min.)

Our conscience is a gift from God to men (Ro 2:14, 15)

It is an inner capacity to look at and evaluate your actions (*w07 10/15 21 par. 9*)

Thousands today let their guard down and are led astray because of not listening to their Bible-trained conscience, thus losing out on their most precious possession, their relationship with Jehovah

The conscience is the first line of defense in our battle against the enemy (Eph 6:11, 12)

It is imperative that, as appointed men, you do your utmost to hold a good conscience and listen to it. It is a requirement for one taking the lead [Read 1 Timothy 3:9]

Questions: How does a properly trained conscience come into play when faced with pornography? Listening to your conscience will help you to avoid what pitfalls when dealing with sisters? What effect would a Bible-trained conscience have on the nature and extent of our business dealings with others in the congregation? (*w97 3/15 18-19 pars. 5-6*)

Enlighten or train your conscience to know what is right and what is wrong, using God's Word as the means of discipline (Heb 5:14)

One provision that will assist you to continue serving is your conscience

Elders and ministerial servants should be concerned not just with following the 'letter of the law' but with taking into account Scriptural principles

The cries of our conscience should spur us on to appropriate action

Questions: What should be our immediate reaction when faced with a temptation? At such occasions, what if we find that initially we hesitate, though at the end make the right decision?

Upon self-examination, we may find there is room to sharpen our response when enticed to do what is wrong

Listening to your Bible-trained conscience will assist you to maintain "love out of a clean heart" (1Ti 1:5)

KEEP PACE WITH JEHOVAH'S LOVING ORGANIZATION (12 min.)

In recent years, the organization has made significant advancements (Isa 60:16, 17)

We rejoice over increased spiritual light that Jehovah has given to the faithful and discreet slave for it gives evidence of divine blessing (Pr 4:18)

Some recent developments are the new format of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*; the clarified understanding of Jesus' illustrations of the mustard grain, the leaven, and the dragnet; the new congregation meeting schedule; and the expanded use of the jw.org Web site

When adjustments are made in the understanding of Bible texts or in theocratic procedures, we should strive to learn them, to grasp their meaning, and to do our best to implement them

A positive response reveals our desire to keep pace with God's organization (2Ki 10:15, 16)

Questions: According to Isaiah 60:17, who has been behind organizational changes among God's people? Why is it essential to be conscientious in implementing adjusted theocratic procedures and in teaching them to others? What benefits have you observed from keeping up-to-date with such changes?

We enjoy Jehovah's approval as we keep pace, moving "straight forward" with his celestial chariot (Eze 1:12)

LOCAL NEEDS (10 min.)

CONCLUSION (2 min.)

When the great tribulation comes, our love will be a big factor in getting us through that difficult time

Love will motivate us to provide relief to our brothers in times of disaster or when some of them are destitute (1Th 4:9, 10; Jas 2:15-17; 1Pe 2:17)

Love moves us to set aside less important activities and to be self-sacrificing, regularly attending all meetings so that we can incite others to love and fine works (Heb 10:24, 25)

We can also abound in love by participating zealously in the ministry

It takes earnest effort to let all our affairs take place with love

As we reflect on the apostle Paul's admonition, may we be resolved to apply all that we have learned so as to help all in the congregation to grow in brotherly affection and love (2Pe 1:7, 8)

[At this point, the ministerial servants should be dismissed. Thereafter, consider with the elders other necessary matters needing attention]