

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



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March 2, 2013

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Re: Preparations for the 2013 Memorial

Dear Brothers:

As you prepare for the Memorial on March 26, 2013, please consider the following reminders closely.

- **Invitations:** The campaign to advertise the Memorial starts on March 1. Please be sure to cover your territory thoroughly with the Memorial invitations using all the invitations consigned to your congregation. Congregations sharing territories with those of another language should cover the territory systematically and in a way that will not irritate the public. The service overseers should communicate with each other and coordinate matters in a mutually agreeable way. Publishers should be informed of the times and locations of the Memorial for other language congregations so that they can direct persons to a Memorial observance held in their own language.—*Our Kingdom Ministry* February 2013 page 2.
- **Meeting arrangements:** Please follow the direction in the announcements section of the March *Our Kingdom Ministry* regarding meeting arrangements during the week of the Memorial.
- **Attendants and servers:** Those chosen as the ones who will serve the emblems should be exemplary. They must have clearly in mind what procedure to follow. Good advance preparation is required. On the night of the Memorial, attendants and elders should be alert to notice the interested ones who arrive, warmly welcoming them and helping them to feel relaxed and comfortable.—Rom. 15:7; 1 Pet. 5:2, 3.
- **Emblems selection:** Please review the information on the emblems in *The Watchtower*, February 15, 2003, pages 14-15; and February 15, 1990, page 17. It is important that the bread and wine you provide correctly follows the clearly published guidelines of the faithful slave.
- **Emblems disposal:** After the Memorial, the emblems have no special or sacred significance. Note what *The Watchtower* of February 15, 1990, page 18, Paragraph 11 said: “The wine and the bread are merely emblems, or symbols; hence, any not used can be taken home and used later simply as other food or beverage items.” Of course, out of regard for the feelings of others, it may not be best to drink or eat the emblems in the Kingdom Hall immediately after the program.
- **Speakers and Prayers:** Please keep in mind that the assignment of the one to give the talk should not be based simply on a rotation basis, or age, or because someone is of the anointed. Kindly review our letter of March 22, 2012, to bodies of elders where it states that the one selected for the talk should be one of the “better qualified teachers, being also well-respected by the congregation.” Also, please note that the revised Memorial talk outline (S-31-E 2/13) that all speakers must use this year clearly states that those who are selected for the prayers over the emblems should be “qualified” and that they should offer a “brief” prayer.
- **Timing:** Congregations may begin their Memorial talk at various times. However, there is one very important thing to remember: *Our Kingdom Ministry* of March 2009, page 1 says: “**Make sure that the emblems will not be passed until after sundown.**” This is important because if the emblems are passed before sundown then the Memorial is being observed on Nisan 13, not Nisan 14. In the Accra area, sundown on March 26 will be 18:11 (6:11 p.m.), however in Kumasi it will be 18:16 (6:16 p.m.). Towards the border with Cote d’Ivoire sundown will be around 18:23 (6:23 p.m.), and towards the border with Togo it is between 18:10-18:12 (6:10-6:12 p.m.). It may be possible to obtain information on when sundown occurs for your area from the Internet. If you

have any doubt, then it would be correct to say that any time after 18:25 (6:25 p.m.) will be “after sundown” anywhere in Ghana.

- **Location:** It is strongly recommended that each congregation arrange to have the Memorial in its own Kingdom Hall rather than meeting jointly with other congregations. (In some cases if a Kingdom Hall is not available, a congregation may use a suitable location in its territory.) Separate meetings provide better opportunity for new ones to meet the local brothers, including the elders and ministerial servants. Later, closer attention can be given to interested ones by the congregation. We know, of course, that there are some situations where inadequate facilities or other problems make it necessary to arrange things differently; however this would be an exception.
- **Isolated groups:** Congregations with large territories, perhaps with groups of publishers or interested ones in distant villages are encouraged to arrange to hold the Memorial in these remote areas. A qualified elder or ministerial servant may be given a copy of the talk outline along with a supply of emblems and arrangements can be made to hold the Memorial in as many locations in the territory as is necessary. Have the goal of spreading the Memorial out into the territory rather than expecting the interested ones to come a long distance to the location of the Kingdom Hall. This will give a fine Witness and perhaps some who have never attended the Memorial before will be moved to attend.—See *yb98* p. 8; *yb02* p. 44.
- **Maintain dignity:** At times, congregations who arrange to hold the Memorial outside may be badly affected by heavy rain. This detracts from the dignity of this special occasion. If it is really necessary to hold the Memorial outside, elders are encouraged to apply the principle in Proverbs 22:3. For example; if canopies are to be used, are they strong and designed in such a way as to let the rain run off them? What arrangements will be in place if violent winds and rain make it impossible to hold the observance outside? Is there a sheltered area nearby? Would it be necessary to quickly arrange to hold the observance in private houses? These are just some things that should be considered in advance.
- **Reporting:** Congregations using www.jw.org are encouraged to report their attendances through the Web site immediately. Congregations not using www.jw.org to send reports should fill the Memorial report (S-7) card and post it immediately.

We are confident that your well-prepared arrangements for the Memorial will receive Jehovah’s rich blessing. (Prov. 11:14; 15:22) We look forward to sharing together in the observance of this most important event and we take the opportunity to assure you of our Christian love and deep appreciation of your hard work “in connection with the Lord.”—1 Cor. 15:58.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah’s Witnesses*

c: Traveling Overseers