

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



The Ridgeway, London, NW7 1RN Telephone: 020 8906 2211

SDH:SSM March 21, 2013

TO ALL CONGREGATION SERVICE COMMITTEES

Re: Pioneer Service School 2013

Dear Brothers:

The Pioneer Service School continues to be one of the highlights of a pioneer's career. What a fine blessing these brothers and sisters will be to their congregations as they put into practice the things that they have been taught by Jehovah through his organization.—Isa. 30:20.

With this in mind, we are pleased to inform you that we are now giving attention to the next classes, scheduled to be held in Britain and Ireland during the 2013 service year. Please read the instructions in this letter *carefully*, as there are adjustments in the requirements to attend the Pioneer Service School during the 2013 service year.

Regular Pioneers Who Have Never Attended Pioneer Service School (list 1)

- The pioneer must have started regular pioneer service on or before **September 1, 2012**.
- The regular pioneer should be at least 16 years of age. The exception would be if one of his parents who also qualifies is invited to the *same class* of the Pioneer Service School. In this case, the minor child who is a regular pioneer may attend with his parent.
- If a pioneer **restarted** full-time service, you can add his past full-time service as a regular pioneer, special pioneer, or any Bethel service to his current period. If this totals a year or more and he has not attended the school previously *either in this country or abroad*, he may attend the next class. Please note that auxiliary pioneer service does not qualify for inclusion in this exception.

Regular Pioneers Who Have Previously Attended Pioneer Service School (list 2)

- The pioneer must have ten or more cumulative years of full-time service, *as of April 1, 2013*, such as regular pioneer service or special full-time service, and not have already attended the Pioneer Service School for a second time. If this pioneer is married to a pioneer, then their marriage mate may also attend the same class providing their pioneer service commenced on or before **September 1, 2012**.

What do we now require from congregation secretaries?

- Send the enclosed preliminary questionnaire *to your circuit overseer* within one week of receipt and **no later than April 8, 2013**. This will save your circuit overseer making unnecessary telephone calls to you and will help us at the branch office to organize the classes without delay. It is very important that you handle this *promptly*.—1 Cor. 14:40.
- Please take time to read the instructions carefully and complete the questionnaire accurately. You should explain (a) how many years of full-time service the pioneer has, and (b) dates when he started and, if applicable, when he stopped. You may need to speak to the pioneer about this.
- The questionnaire should be returned to your circuit overseer *even if you have no pioneers who qualify* for the class next year. Once all the questionnaires from the congregations in your circuit have been received your circuit overseer will then provide the branch office with a definitive list of those who may be invited to attend. We will then provide an enrolment record for all the classes based on the information we receive and on the records we hold at the branch office.

We are pleased that long-time pioneers are being invited back to the Pioneer Service School again. Please note, however, that this invitation is expected to take place gradually over a period of time. Although you may put the name of a long-time pioneer on the list it *does not mean he will be invited to a class this year*. There are many factors that will have a bearing on how many long-time regular pioneers are invited each year.

Finally, please note that **Pioneer Service Schools in Britain and Ireland during 2013 will primarily be conducted in English**. However, if there are sufficient numbers we may also hold classes in other major languages. More information about these classes will be sent to you in due course.

It is important that a pioneer should be able to understand the language in which the school will be conducted well enough to benefit from the course. If this is not the case, then please encourage the pioneer either to wait until they have a better grasp of the language, or to attend a school conducted in a language that they understand. Please remember that arrangements for attending the Pioneer Service School in another country, in languages other than English should be made through the Theocratic Schools Desk at the branch office. You should therefore **NOT** include on the enclosed list, the names of pioneers who would prefer to attend a school in another country. Please see our letter to all bodies of elders dated SDH:SSM March 8, 2012.

We thank you for your cooperation with the above instructions and are pleased to send our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,
*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

Attachment

cc: Travelling overseers