

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



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May 14, 2013

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Re: Clarification on December 11, 2011, letter to all bodies of elders

Dear Brothers:

This letter is to provide clarification on the type of accommodations requested for the arrangement that is outlined in the December 11, 2011, letter to all bodies of elders regarding *arrangements for those who need to travel to seek care for special medical needs*.

The December 11, 2011, letter requests bodies of elders whose congregations are near medical facilities where patients from other areas may travel to for medical care, to consult with family heads in their congregation that may be able to accommodate out-of-town patients. The details of those who are able to provide such accommodations were to be forwarded to the local Hospital Liaison Committee (HLC) chairman.

The HLCs in our branch territory report that few have responded to this request. This has at times resulted in finding our brothers and sisters who are related to hospital patients sleeping on the floor or on benches at the hospital, at times being exposed to the elements and mosquitos.

Looking further into this matter it appears that many elders misunderstood the request for accommodations to be for a room or a self-contained room that could be available year-round for this arrangement. This is not the case. Rather, accommodations similar to those provided for ones attending an assembly or a convention from out-of-town are being requested. Many families make a room available at such times by temporarily having some family members share a room. This kind of arrangement would be very helpful in addressing the needs outlined in the December 11, 2011, letter. This same letter even suggests that if the need for accommodations is "for an extended period of time, the homes of multiple families should be used on a rotating basis so as not to impose a burden on any one family."

For our brothers and sisters who are caring for a patient in a medical crisis, even a small corner of a fellow Christian's home would be a safer, better alternative than sleeping in the open at the hospital. In addition, they benefit from association and encouragement with fellow Christians.

Please note that these arrangements do not obligate the host to provide food, transportation, or financial support. The host is only being asked to provide accommodations. HLCs are being asked to make this information known to those benefiting from this arrangement.

With this clarification in mind, we would like to ask the Congregation Service Committees of congregations near medical facilities where patients from other areas may seek medical care to review the December 11, 2011, letter again, in particular the postscript to the Congregation Service Committee. After doing so, please forward the names of any who are willing to make their homes available to your local HLC chairman.

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As you continue to exert yourselves to care for Jehovah's sheep, be assured of our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

cc: Hospital Liaison Committees

Traveling Overseers

PS to secretary:

This letter should be retained in the congregation permanent file of policy letters. You may wish to update the congregation copy of *Index to Letters for Bodies of Elders* (S-22) at this time as well.