

# Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



2821 Route 22, Patterson, NY 12563-2237 Phone: (845) 306-1100

November 27, 2013

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES BRANCH TERRITORY

Re: Moving to where there is a need for publishers in another language

Dear Brothers:

Many of our brothers and sisters are learning another language to help sincere individuals to “seek God . . . and really find him.” (Acts 17:27) In order to further Kingdom interests, we are inviting qualified publishers to prayerfully consider *moving permanently* to preach in areas where there is a population that speaks another language. Why is such an invitation being extended?

Consider that in 2007 there were 31,200 publishers serving in 491 foreign-language congregations in our branch territory. By 2012, this had increased to 46,400 publishers associating with 841 foreign-language congregations. There were also seven foreign-language circuits formed during the 2013 service year: three in American Sign Language, two in Haitian Creole, one in Portuguese, and one in Vietnamese. And in the 2014 service year, foreign-language circuits were formed in Arabic, Chinese, Russian, and Tagalog.

In view of the need to preach in other languages, qualified publishers may want to consider *moving permanently* to an area. A list of locations where there is a sizable community that speaks a language other than English or Spanish will be posted on the information board. Any contemplating such a move should carefully “calculate the expense.” (Luke 14:28) The aim is to give a greater Kingdom witness in other languages. At the same time, serving in a foreign-language field presents certain challenges, including learning the language and culture of the people. Other factors to consider are located in the *Watch Tower Publications Index* under the heading “Serving Where Need Is Greater.” (*w06* 3/15 pp. 17-20; *w03* 7/15 p. 20 pars. 18-21; *w88* 8/15 pp. 21-23) After reviewing the information, qualified publishers should evaluate their circumstances to see if they can respond to this call for help. If so, such ones must prepare a letter to the branch office, outlining their theocratic background and desire to move. Please be specific in the language(s) and location(s) you are considering. Next, the publisher should give the letter to the Congregation Service Committee, who will send it to the branch office along with their recommendation. The branch office will reply to the publisher and elders with additional information.

Wonderful potential for Kingdom increase exists as people “out of all the languages of the nations . . . take firm hold of the robe of a Jew, saying: ‘We want to go with you, for we have heard that God is with you people.’” (Zech. 8:23; Mark 13:10) May Jehovah bless your share in this great preaching activity.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation  
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

cc: Traveling overseers

11/27/13-E Us

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PS to body of elders:

Please arrange for this letter to be read to the congregation at the first Service Meeting after its receipt. Thereafter, it and the attached *Foreign-Language Areas of Need* list should be posted on the information board. **This postscript should neither be read to the congregation nor be posted on the information board.**

A copy of this letter should also 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.

Help those who consider *moving permanently* to assist a foreign-language congregation, group, or pregroup to carefully “calculate the expense.” (Luke 14:28; Jas. 1:5; *km* 8/11 pp. 4-6) Their decision should not be based on emotion, but they should prayerfully consider whether they have the circumstances to make such a move. The Congregation Service Committee should recommend those whom the elders are convinced are exemplary and who will not become a burden to another congregation. A frank assessment of the spiritual qualifications should be included for any who submit a written inquiry to the branch office. (See the *Organized* book, pages 111-112.) If the publisher does not qualify now, please arrange for two elders to speak with him and let him know what he may need to do in order to reach out for this privilege in the future.

As noted above, we are attaching a list that provides a breakdown of languages that are spoken in various areas of the branch territory. This list will be updated on [jw.org](http://jw.org) as needed. Of course, it is not a comprehensive list, but it provides an idea of some areas we have identified where assistance would be appreciated. We ask that you please keep this initiative to expand Kingdom interests in your prayers to Jehovah.—Ps. 127:1.