

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses
Congrégation chrétienne des Témoins de Jéhovah



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September 10, 2014

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS

Re: Personal literature supply

Dear Brothers:

We are writing to provide direction regarding an effort for all of us to reduce the amount of excess literature that may be stored in our homes. We invite each family head to make an assessment of his family's personal supply of literature. During the month of October 2014 a special effort should be made to place any excess literature that is suitable for use in the field ministry. At the conclusion of the month, any remaining literature designed for use in the ministry that is in good or like-new condition should be returned to the literature counter at the Kingdom Hall for redistribution among the publishers.

This united effort to make the best use of our publications will help to conserve dedicated funds and to reduce the cost of printing and shipping items that may already be available in our homes or in our book bags. Each member of the congregation can help in this endeavor. How?
(1) Be conservative when obtaining literature. Many find it beneficial to obtain a small amount of literature on a weekly basis rather than obtaining a large quantity on a monthly basis.
(2) Regularly monitor your personal literature supply. In the event that you identify literature that is not being used and is in good or like-new condition, promptly return it to the literature counter.

When a publication is revised, the older stock on hand is generally used first before introducing the revised publication. Therefore, reducing congregation and personal supplies will allow revised publications to be introduced into the field more quickly. In this regard, we are pleased to announce that revised editions of *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* and "*Keep Yourselves in God's Love*" will be released in the future. Recent adjustments related to doctrinal matters will be reflected in the revised editions. Also, material in the revised books will be updated to contain quotations and references from the revised *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*. In view of these upcoming revisions, it would be good to give special attention to reducing the supply of the books that may be on hand.

We all want our literature to achieve its intended purpose, namely, to help sincere people learn more about Jehovah's marvelous promises. Just as Jesus did not waste leftover food after he miraculously fed the crowds, our taking the above-mentioned steps can help us to make the best use of valuable, Bible-based literature by getting it into the hands of righteously inclined people.—John 6:11-13.

Be assured of our warm Christian love and greetings.

Your brothers,
Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses

cc: Circuit overseers

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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 should be posted on the information board. **While this postscript should be shared with the literature and magazine servants, it should neither be read to the congregation nor be posted on the information board.** Arrangements should be put into place immediately to begin accepting literature that is returned by the publishers. The literature should be received with a positive and commending spirit, since the publishers are cooperating with direction provided by the branch office. Additionally, no rigid rules should be imposed as to the amount of literature that publishers can request in order to care for their personal needs and for their field ministry.

Congregations should continue to request *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* and “*Keep Yourselves in God’s Love*” to maintain a modest supply at the Kingdom Hall. This will assist in reducing existing stock at the branch office before the revisions are released. As the revised editions become available in each language, they will be used to fill congregation requests.

This would also be an appropriate time for the magazine coordinator and the service overseer of his congregation to review the number of magazines being requested. If at the end of each month there is a considerable excess of magazines in stock, the quantity requested from the branch office should be reduced.—See *Literature and Magazine Request Guidelines* (S-56), chapter 7, paragraphs 4-5, and chapter 15, paragraphs 3-5.