

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



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

October 20, 2015

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS

Re: Making Wise Use of Printed Magazines

Dear Brothers:

It is heartwarming to see the response to the valuable Bible-based information that has been provided in the pages of our magazines. Certainly, Jehovah's people are happy to share such spiritual food with "those hungering and thirsting for righteousness." (Matt. 5:6) While it is true that we have been given an abundance of spiritual food, we wish to follow the pattern that Jesus set in making sure that "nothing is wasted." (John 6:12) In harmony with this principle and in view of recent adjustments to the frequency with which our public magazines are published, the following guidelines are being provided with the aim of making wise use of our magazines.

Nested Magazines: Beginning with the 2016 issues, two copies of the same magazine will be nested together. In order to avoid accidentally placing nested magazines, the magazine servant will ensure that nested copies are separated before they are made available to the publishers. This will help to prevent the congregation's supply of magazines from being depleted prematurely.

Offering Magazines: It would not be appropriate to distribute magazines indiscriminately to those who have not shown interest. How might a person demonstrate interest? A willingness to converse is a good sign. Paying attention while we speak, responding to questions, and expressing an opinion may also indicate interest. Following along as we read from the Bible implies a respect for God's Word. We may ask the individual if he would read the magazine being offered. Publishers should use good judgment to determine the individual's interest before offering magazines.

When the Supply of Magazines Is Depleted Before the End of the Month: It is preferred that the congregation's supply of magazines be depleted by the end of the month. Publishers may be reminded to return unused magazines to the Kingdom Hall for redistribution. If the supply of magazines is depleted before the end of the month, brochures, tracts, past issues of the magazines, or the *Bible Teach* book may be used in the ministry.

Revised *Field Service Report (S-4)*: Beginning in January 2016, all placements—whether printed or electronic—will be reported in one combined category entitled "Placements." (Electronic placements would include files of or links to videos, books, magazines, articles, tracts, and so forth.) Additionally, a new category entitled "Video Showings" will be used to report the number of times we were able to show one of our videos in the ministry. We will continue to report hours, return visits, and the number of different Bible studies conducted during the month. The existing *Field Service Report* may be used until the revised forms arrive.

We send our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

c: Circuit overseers

10/20/15-E

Re: Making Wise Use of Printed Magazines
October 20, 2015
Page 2

PS to bodies 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. **This postscript should neither be read to the congregation nor be posted on the information board.**

This letter has been added to the list of policy letters that will be cited in *Index to Letters for Bodies of Elders* (S-22). In addition to the guidelines presented in the body of this letter, we ask that the service overseer review the following two paragraphs with the brothers who care for the magazines. *Literature and Magazine Request Guidelines* (S-56) will be updated in due course.

Review Standing Request Quantities: Upon receipt of this letter, the service overseer and magazine coordinator (or magazine servant) should calculate how many magazines are moved each month on average and adjust the standing requests so that, if possible, no copies will be left over at the end of each month. If there is a large surplus of magazines from recent months, standing requests could be reduced even further for a time until the older issues in good condition have been distributed. Also, as electronic tablets become increasingly common, many congregations are noting a decline in the number of printed copies of the study edition of *The Watchtower* that are needed. The service overseer and magazine coordinator (or magazine servant) should be alert to this trend and adjust standing requests according to the needs.

Special Requests: If a month of special activity is planned, the following factors should be considered before submitting a special request. Is there a considerable supply of magazines left over from previous months? Instead of submitting a special request, could these older issues be used when the monthly supply of magazines runs out? Will the congregation be participating in a special campaign during the month, such as distributing invitations for the Memorial or the convention? If so, this may limit the number of magazines that will be needed. If it is determined that a special request needs to be made, please note that the branch office may limit the quantity of magazines that will be sent. In most cases, there would not be a need to place a rush request.

Field Service Report to the Branch Office: A consignment of revised *Field Service Reports* (S-4) and revised *Congregation's Publisher Record* (S-21) cards that reflect the new arrangement for publishers to report placements and video showings will be provided in due course. The revised forms should begin to be used as soon as they are received. Until the revised record cards arrive, the figure for video showings should be indicated in the "Remarks" column.

Please note that beginning in January 2016, publishers' placements will no longer be reported to the branch office. Neither will video showings be reported. However, in order to monitor congregation activity, placements and video showings should still be recorded in the congregation's files. Other forms and the appropriate pages on jw.org will be updated in the near future.