

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



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

October 22, 2015

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Re: Use of JW Stream

Dear Brothers:

We are writing to inform you that arrangements are being made for video recordings of congregation meetings, circuit assemblies, and conventions to be uploaded to JW Stream (accessible at <http://stream.jw.org>) in various languages. The branch office will determine which congregations, circuits, and conventions will upload the recordings. Foreign-language pregroups, groups, and congregations who have received approval from their circuit overseer may make use of these recordings. The October 23, 2015, letter to all bodies of elders contains the latest direction regarding this matter and other matters involving the foreign-language field.

Accessing and Viewing Recordings: Elders and ministerial servants who have a jw.org login have been given access to view all recorded meetings, assemblies, and conventions that are uploaded to JW Stream. The same credentials that are used when logging in to jw.org are used when logging in to JW Stream. After logging in and selecting the desired language, a list of recorded events in the target language will be shown. If possible, the recorded meeting should be downloaded to a computer or other media playback device rather than be streamed so that Internet connection problems do not interrupt the meeting.

Recordings of congregation meetings will be available for one week. Recordings of assemblies and conventions will be available until they are replaced with the next year's event. In many cases, this will enable brothers in foreign-language pregroups and groups to watch an event at the same time and in the same location that their host congregation or circuit attends the event. These recordings are provided for viewing by pregroups, groups, and congregations who have received approval to do so from their circuit overseer. The recordings **should not be distributed** for other purposes.

Homebound and Isolated Publishers: The Invitation feature on JW Stream can be used to send a link to a specific recording via e-mail. Congregations and foreign-language pregroups and groups that have been approved to view recordings of meetings, assemblies, and conventions may use this feature to allow homebound publishers in their congregations to view such recordings. This provision does not supersede arrangements for homebound publishers to tie in to their own congregation meetings.

If because of sickness or other circumstances a publisher is unable to attend an assembly or convention to which his congregation is assigned, the elders may determine that he qualifies to receive a link to an assembly or convention that has been uploaded to JW Stream. There is no need to announce this provision to the congregation. The publisher should be instructed that the link is not to be shared with anyone else and that he should not view the assembly or convention before his congregation attends. Since this provision involves technology that may be difficult

Re: Use of JW Stream

October 22, 2015

Page 2

for the elderly and infirm to use, elders should be alert to provide assistance. If the elderly and infirm do not have equipment to access the program, please have publishers who are familiar with this technology assist them by loaning equipment, providing downloaded files, or in some other way making it available to them.

Suggested Equipment and Internet Service: Pregroups, groups, and small or isolated congregations may contact the Local Design/Construction Department for a listing of suggested equipment *after* they have received approval from their circuit overseer to use these recordings.

Reliable and fast Internet service is required to stream recorded meetings directly from JW Stream. An Internet service with a download speed of 3 Mbps or greater is recommended, but a download speed of 1.5 Mbps should be considered the minimum.

Implementation: Priority will be given to uploading recordings of congregation meetings, assemblies, and conventions in languages that currently have *The Watchtower*. It may take several months before recordings in some languages are uploaded. Until then, **please continue to use existing arrangements** for tying in to or distributing recordings of congregation meetings, assemblies, and conventions.

We feel that this approach will assist foreign-language pregroups, groups, and congregations to receive nourishing spiritual food in a simple, sustainable, and expandable manner. It should help interested ones to continue learning “about the magnificent things of God” in the language they best understand.—Acts 2:11.

Please be assured of our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

c: Circuit overseers

PS to secretaries:

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).