

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



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TO PUBLISHERS LEARNING ANOTHER LANGUAGE TO ADVANCE THE GOOD NEWS

Dear Brothers:

Jehovah's holy spirit is inciting his people to search out precious ones in all language groups to share with them the good news in the Bible. (Hag. 2:7) You are seeing firsthand why Jesus urged his disciples to "beg the Master" for more Kingdom workers. (Matt. 9:36-38) So that you thrive spiritually as you serve in the foreign-language field, please consider the following.

Learn the Language and the Culture: Learning a new language cannot be left to chance. You must sense your personal responsibility to make progress. Follow a definite plan so that you can reach your full potential. Make it a habit to read aloud five to ten minutes each day. Reading the daily text will be helpful. Studying the language each day for 15 to 30 minutes often provides more benefits than longer study periods once or twice a week. Recall the Bible principle: "Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." (2 Cor. 9:6) One missionary noted: "There is little one can do to help the people without learning the language. This provides real incentive to study diligently." By adding a word or two to your vocabulary each day and then using those words, you will soon learn and know how to use a few hundred words.—*w08* 8/15 pp. 22-25; *g07* 03 pp. 10-12; *w06* 3/15 pp. 17-20.

Get involved in the theocratic activities of the congregation. Strive to preach in the new language weekly. Make yourself available to present student assignments on the Life and Ministry Meeting so that you can learn how to express yourself well in the ministry. Participate freely in the meetings, even if your answer is only a simple one in the beginning. If you are intimidated by the language or are shy, remember that others overcame such challenges and you can too. (*yb00* p. 56; *w00* 6/1 pp. 20-25) If you become frustrated over not being able to express yourself, think about how far you have already progressed in your ability to share the good news in the new language. You will make even further progress as you ask Jehovah to bless your sincere, earnest efforts to glorify his name.

Loving the brothers and building close friendships in the congregation will help you adapt to the new environment. (1 Cor. 13:1) Take into account their ideas, eating habits, and traditions. If you try to understand their point of view and their situation, you will readily gain friends and seldom offend others. On the other hand, do not promote culture. Stay focused on promoting the Kingdom and following theocratic direction. Such things are what truly unite our Christian brotherhood.—*jv* p. 220 par. 1.

Keep Your Motives Pure: What motivates you to persevere in the foreign-language field? Likely it is your love for Jehovah and for people. Keeping in mind such honorable motives will help you to accept the fact that making mistakes is part of the learning process. There is no need to feel ashamed when it occurs. Do not take yourself too seriously. Display a sense of hu-

mor, being willing to laugh at your own mistakes. Be patient with yourself and be kind to others as you deal with the unexpected and uncomfortable situations that may arise. Keep in mind that preaching the Kingdom good news is the important thing. By showing sincere personal interest and becoming an effective preacher and teacher in the new language, you will have a full share in whatever increase Jehovah gives.—*be* pp. 186-189.

Be Conscious of Your Spiritual Need: Your giving of yourself is no doubt bringing you much happiness. (Acts 20:35) Likely you better understand why the faithful and discreet slave is interested in helping people hear the good news in their mother tongue. Such interest also applies to you. Although basic Bible truths will be sounded down into your heart and mind again as you learn the new language, read and study the Bible in *your* mother tongue. Your ongoing program of spiritual training in your first language will help you stay spiritually strong.

Be Realistic: What can you do if you are not grasping the language as you would like and are thinking about returning to a congregation of your mother tongue? Speak with an elder or mature friend. (Prov. 15:22) Such confidential talk can help you get a fresh view of what may be troubling you so that you can press ahead with a positive attitude. Ask yourself the following questions: Am I beginning to comprehend the congregation meetings? Do I participate at the meetings, making brief comments? Do I give understandable presentations in the ministry? Am I staying spiritually strong, cultivating the fruitage of the spirit, and working for the peace of the congregation?

If, after careful self-examination, you feel that it would be better to return to your former congregation, do not view your decision as a step backward in your spiritual progress. (Mic. 6:8) You will always cherish the experiences and the friendships you have gained by helping the foreign-language community come to know and serve Jehovah. If your circumstances change in the future, you may be able to serve in the foreign-language field once again.

Jehovah and his organization are supporting you as you take the initiative to imitate Jesus in conveying the Bible's message to "people of all sorts." (John 1:7) May He bless your self-sacrificing ways. We send our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,

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