

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



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

January 1, 2016

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS

Re: 2016 Memorial and Special Talk

Dear Brothers:

Each year, the Memorial season affords us a special opportunity to express our love for Jehovah, for his Son, and for those to whom we preach. This year, the Memorial will be held on Wednesday, March 23, 2016. The special public talk entitled “Are You on the Road to Everlasting Life?” will be given the week of March 28. It will help Bible students and interested ones to understand why and how to make further spiritual progress. As in past years, the elders will be making an effort to ensure that inactive ones receive an invitation to these important meetings. This year, the elders will also ensure that each inactive one receives a copy of the *Return to Jehovah* brochure. How can you assist the elders in welcoming back those who have strayed from the flock?—Luke 15:6, 9.

Do you personally know any inactive ones, perhaps relatives, who may have lost contact with the congregation? Could you take the initiative to share the *Return to Jehovah* brochure with them and kindly invite them to the Memorial and special talk? If they do not live in your area, could you explain how to use jw.org to find the nearest Kingdom Hall, to find the time of the Memorial, or to request a Bible study? The elders would be happy to provide assistance as needed.

When inactive ones attend your congregation meetings, give them a sincere welcome. In this regard, we encourage you to review page 14 of *Return to Jehovah*, paying particular attention to the column “How Will the Congregation Receive Me?” We also encourage you to review the November 2015 program of JW Broadcasting.

It is our hope that during this Memorial season, many will be moved to ‘return to the shepherd of their souls.’—1 Pet. 2:25.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

c: Circuit overseers

Re: 2016 Memorial and Special Talk

January 1, 2016

Page 2

PS to bodies of elders:

Please arrange for this letter to be read to the congregation at the **first midweek meeting in February 2016**. Thereafter, it should be posted on the information board. **However, this post-script should neither be read to the congregation nor be posted on the information board.**

Please follow closely the instructions regarding the labeling and distribution of Memorial invitations in the July 25, 2015, letter to all bodies of elders. Also, please follow closely the instructions in the May 23, 2010, letter to all bodies of elders as you endeavor to invite inactive ones to the Memorial and special talk. As you meet with them, please convey the love and concern of the Governing Body and the local congregation. (1 Thess. 2:7, 8) Offer to help with transportation or to provide any other practical assistance so that they can be in attendance. As noted above, please ensure that they have received a personal copy of the *Return to Jehovah* brochure. A modest supply of the brochure should be kept on hand (though not displayed) at public witnessing locations for the benefit of inactive ones who may be encountered.

This year, in addition to visiting inactive ones, you should make a special effort to invite disfellowshipped ones to the Memorial and the special public talk. (See the *Shepherding* textbook, chapter 10, paragraph 1, for direction on who qualify to be visited.) A copy of *Return to Jehovah* should be left with such individuals. As a reminder, the visit should be kind and positive, but brief.

Please adhere to the following procedure in connection with the 2016 Memorial observance. The chairman is to begin the meeting with brief comments and to invite all in attendance to join in singing the opening song. The chairman (or perhaps another qualified elder assigned in advance) will open the meeting with prayer. The chairman will then introduce the speaker. After the talk, the chairman will read the announcement provided with this letter and will then announce the concluding song. He will usually call on the speaker to offer the closing prayer. After the special talk, the chairman will read the announcement provided with this letter.

Please note that the 2017 Memorial will be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2017. The 2018 Memorial will be held on Saturday, March 31, 2018.

2016 MEMORIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

We are very pleased that you arranged your affairs to be here this evening for the annual observance of the Lord's Evening Meal! If you would like someone to visit you to demonstrate a free, personal Bible study, please speak to one of the attendants. We would also like to invite you to attend a special Bible discourse that will be given on **[state the date, time, and location of the meeting]**. That talk, to be presented worldwide by Jehovah's Witnesses, is entitled "Are You on the Road to Everlasting Life?" We warmly encourage you to join us in attending this important program. In addition, we invite you to visit our website, www.jw.org. Bible-based content is available there in over 700 languages. It discusses topics that appeal to married couples, parents, teenagers, young children, and all who want to learn about the Bible.

2016 SPECIAL TALK ANNOUNCEMENT

We are very happy that all of you could attend this special talk that is being delivered worldwide in over 118,000 congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses! If you would like someone to visit you to demonstrate a free, personal Bible study, please speak to one of the attendants. In addition, we invite you to visit our website, www.jw.org. Bible-based content is available there in over 700 languages. It discusses topics that appeal to married couples, parents, teenagers, young children, and all who want to learn about the Bible.