

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



Hse. No. J348/4 - Tema Beach Road - Nungua, Accra
P. O. Box GP 760, Accra, Ghana Tel. No.: (030) 2712456-8; 7010110 Fax: (030) 2712454

January 12, 2016

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Re: Local Needs—Reawaken the House-to-House Ministry and Conduct Progressive Bible Studies

Dear Brothers:

The 2015 service year was a very fruitful year. We now have 129,046 publishers, which represents a 4 percent increase in the number of publishers. Over 273,000 attended the “Imitate Jesus” Regional Conventions, a 5 percent increase over the previous year’s attendance. We commend you for the part you played in taking the lead in the ministry.

For some years now, we have noted a trend that we want to bring to your attention. Most Bible studies conducted are unprogressive. For example, in the 2015 service year, an average of 400,672 Bible studies was reported to have been conducted each month. However, only 27,660 Bible students and children of Witnesses attended our midweek meeting each month. Many of these Bible students have been studying for years without attending a meeting.

Secondly, when most groups meet for field service, very often the activity planned for the day is conducting Bible studies. Due to this, the house-to-house ministry is gradually diminishing. Consequently, much time is spent visiting unprogressive Bible students.

Thirdly, because of the absence of proper territory records, when groups meet for field service there is often no territory scheduled to be worked. Hence, the easiest thing to do after the field service meeting is return visits and Bible studies. Brothers, have you also observed these trends in your congregation?

How can these trends be reversed? We want to learn from the example our circuit overseers set. When they visit your congregation, publishers engage in the house-to-house ministry in the morning and return visits and Bible studies in the afternoon. This is not to say that you should always engage in the house-to-house ministry in the morning and return visits and Bible studies in the afternoon. Nor does it mean that you should force publishers to engage in the house-to-house ministry at designated times. However, please encourage the publishers to make it a practice for a witnessing period to include some house-to-house ministry. It will be vital that you as elders set an example worthy of imitation. Starting immediately, please include house-to-house ministry in your witnessing period when groups meet for field service. This means the one conducting the meeting for field service would have a territory in mind where the group will work. During the meeting for field service the conductor should present material that will encourage and equip those going out in the ministry that day. Many suggestions in this regard can be found in *Our Kingdom Ministry* and *Life and Ministry Meeting Workbook*. We are confident that you will apply these suggestions so that all publishers will be helped to have fresh return visits and conduct Bible studies that are progressive.

Re: Local Needs—Reawaken the House-to-House Ministry and Conduct Progressive Bible Studies
January 12, 2016
Page 2

To alert publishers to this problem, **please use the local needs part on the midweek meeting for the week of May 30 to June 4, 2016, to discuss material in the revised *Organized* book, chapter 9, paragraphs 1-9, and the Question Box in *Our Kingdom Ministry* of December 2015.**

We pray Jehovah's blessing on your effort to revive the house-to-house ministry in your congregation. Please accept an expression of our warm Christian love.

Your brothers,
*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

c: Circuit overseers

PS:

At this time you will want to review the activities of field service group overseers in your congregation. If they are not able to lead the groups on weekends, you may want to use more capable brothers who will be out in the ministry with the groups. You can only lead others where you yourself are willing to go. — **Read** Numbers 27:15-17.

Use good judgment when assigning conductors, keeping in mind that the quality of meeting for field service will also depend on the teaching and organizing ability of those conducting. Then publishers will be better prepared, have greater joy, stay out longer, and experience Jehovah's blessing.— See *Our Kingdom Ministry* of March 2015, page 3.