

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



675 Red Mills Road Walkill NY 12589-3292 Phone: (845) 306-1100

May 21, 2016

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS

Re: Annual Items for 2017

Dear Brothers:

We are pleased to inform you that electronic versions of the annual items for 2017 will be made available for download on jw.org beginning in October of this year. This includes *Examining the Scriptures Daily—2017* and the *2017 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses*. Additionally, the *Research Guide for Jehovah's Witnesses—2016 Edition* will be released as it becomes available in each language. Because of the cost of producing printed publications, those with electronic devices are encouraged to make full use of electronic files rather than requesting printed copies. Any publishers needing assistance downloading these files to an electronic device should feel free to request such assistance from others in the congregation.

Publishers who require printed editions of the annual items may request them at this time. These include *Examining the Scriptures Daily—2017*, the *2017 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses*, *Watchtower Library—2016*, and the *Watch Tower Publications Index 2016*. Additionally, requests may be submitted for Braille editions of *Examining the Scriptures Daily* and the *Yearbook*. Please note that the *Calendar of Jehovah's Witnesses* will no longer be produced.

You may also now begin requesting the 2016 *Watchtower* and *Awake!* bound volume. In times past, some have requested this item simply to complete a personal library rather than for use as a research tool. With the increased availability of electronic resources such as *Watchtower Library*, the *JW Library* app, and *Watchtower ONLINE LIBRARY*, many have found that their use of printed bound volumes has greatly diminished. These electronic research tools are regularly updated and are well-suited to serve as our personal reference library. With these thoughts in mind, we ask that you please ensure that the printed bound volume will be fully utilized before requesting it.

We send our warm Christian love and greetings.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

c: Circuit overseers

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PS to bodies of elders:

Please arrange for this letter to be read to the congregation at the first midweek meeting after its receipt. 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.**

We are pleased to inform you that congregations may begin submitting requests for the annual items mentioned above using jw.org. Requests may also be submitted for Braille editions of the items. The *Record of Special-Request Items* (S-57) may be used to record individual requests.

In order for the branch office to meet the production and distribution needs of all congregations and reduce the extra cost involved with rush shipments, **each congregation** should enter its own request no later than **August 1, 2016**. The service overseer should work with the literature servant to ensure that the requests are submitted by that date. Soon thereafter, the quantity of annual items that a congregation can request will be lowered to the standard limit allowed for extra requests (five per congregation). A list of the languages in which these items are available will appear in the monthly literature announcement. For additional details, please review the announcement entitled "Prepare Now for Your Literature Needs" that is posted on jw.org.

Recent inventory surveys have indicated that some congregations have a quantity of annual items remaining after the general distribution to the publishers. Additionally, as noted above, many publishers are making use of electronic devices and therefore do not require printed publications. Quantities should not be submitted in anticipation of requests but should reflect the actual quantity requested by individuals. As a reminder, these items are considered special-request items.

Thank you for making prompt and accurate requests for any annual items needed in printed format or embossed Braille format.