

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



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

October 1, 2016

TO ALL ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATIONS AND GROUPS

Re: *“Sing Out Joyfully” to Jehovah*

Dear Brothers:

A new songbook containing 151 songs and entitled *“Sing Out Joyfully” to Jehovah* was released in English at the annual meeting of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania held on October 1, 2016. This new songbook is available with musical notation in both small and large sizes. A lyrics-only format is available in the large size only.

All digital formats of *“Sing Out Joyfully”* in English will be available on jw.org, in *Watchtower ONLINE LIBRARY*, and in *JW Library* on Monday, October 3, 2016. Songs from *“Sing Out Joyfully”* will be sung at English-language meetings beginning the week of January 2, 2017. Other languages will release the new songbook and begin to use it as it becomes available. Additionally, we are pleased to inform you that before January 2, 2017, video files containing the music and English lyrics for all 151 songs will be provided. This will allow the lyrics to be shown on-screen during singing at assemblies, conventions, and congregation meetings where video equipment is available.

Because of the cost involved in producing printed publications, it is preferred that wherever possible, publishers make full use of electronic copies rather than requesting printed copies. However, a printed copy of the songbook may be requested for any publisher who desires to receive one. Each group overseer has been directed to contact each publisher in his group to determine whether the publisher desires a printed copy.

All formats of the printed songbook have deluxe covers and silver edging on the pages, similar to the revised *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*. Congregations should receive their supply before January 2017.

We are confident that our new songbook will help us to “sing out joyfully” to our generous God, Jehovah. (1 Chron. 15:16) All of us can continue to be mindful of making financial contributions to support our worldwide Bible educational work.

Please accept an expression of our warm Christian love.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

c: Circuit overseers

PS to bodies of elders:

Please arrange for this letter to be read to the congregation at the conclusion of the first weekend meeting or midweek meeting after its receipt, whichever comes first. It should be read to English-speaking groups at the next meeting held in English. Thereafter, it should be posted on the information board. **However, this postscript should neither be read to the congregation nor be posted on the information board.**

Requesting Printed Copies of the New Songbook:

- **Immediately following the meeting when the announcement is made**, each group overseer should ask each publisher in his group whether the publisher desires a printed copy of the new songbook. Special care should be taken by each group overseer to contact any publishers in his group who are homebound or were absent from the meeting when the announcement was made. The group overseer should not discourage anyone from requesting a printed copy. However, he can mention that electronic copies are already available for download and, if applicable, that the lyrics will be displayed on-screen at the meetings. In the initial distribution, publishers needing a printed book will be limited to one copy, which they may choose from among the three available formats. After tallying the requests from his group, the group overseer should promptly inform the service overseer of the quantity needed. The service overseer, with the help of the literature servant, should then convey the total number requested by the congregation to the language coordinator.
- Language-coordinating congregations should submit requests for the total quantity needed by the congregations in their language group. A few additional copies may be requested for stock. All requests should be submitted to the branch office by **October 17, 2016**. Please use the following information when submitting requests:

Title: “*Sing Out Joyfully*” to Jehovah

Mnemonic: *sjj*

Item number: 5341

Title: “*Sing Out Joyfully*” to Jehovah (large size)

Mnemonic: *sjjls*

Item number: 5441

Title: “*Sing Out Joyfully*” to Jehovah—*Lyrics Only*

Mnemonic: *sjjyls*

Item number: 5442

All pending requests for the English songbook *Sing to Jehovah* in any format have been canceled. Any English copies that the congregation has on hand should be discarded once the new songbook begins to be used at congregation meetings.

Also, congregations that share a Kingdom Hall with congregations or groups that use another language should be aware that it may be some time before all the congregations and groups using the Kingdom Hall begin using “*Sing Out Joyfully*” at their meetings. In such cases, it will be necessary for the recordings of the songs from both *Sing to Jehovah* and “*Sing Out Joyfully*” to be available for use at congregation meetings. Good communication between the bodies of elders using the Kingdom Hall will be needed so that the music from *Sing to Jehovah* is not deleted from the sound system prematurely.