

TESTIGOS CRISTIANOS DE JEHOVÁ

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KHA January 25, 2017

TO THE BODIES OF ELDERS

Re: Kingdom Hall Construction and Renovation Projects

Dear Brothers:

Many requests are received at our offices asking about the status of a Kingdom Hall construction or renovation project, or a purchase that was approved in the past, whether by the Regional Construction Committee or by the branch. We would like to bring you up to date.

Please bear in mind that when the Kingdom Hall building program was changed from Regional Construction Committees to the new system established in the whole world and administered in each country by a Local Design/Build Department (LDC), all the projects that had been approved were suspended.

This does not necessarily mean that those projects will not be carried out, but rather that a new evaluation is required, in harmony with the present criteria approved by the Governing Body. This evaluation provides the basis for the General Plan for Kingdom Halls, which takes into account the needs of all the congregations in the country and defines the priority in each case. This General Plan is compiled and updated for periods of between three and five years.

The data for this study is drawn from the technical inspections being made at each Kingdom Hall and from the reports submitted by LDC representatives and by the circuit overseer. Thereafter the LDC Department, in close cooperation with the Branch Service Department, compiles an exhaustive study of the territory taking into account the needs of the Spanish-language congregations, as well as other languages, including groups and pre-groups.

So then, which projects will become a reality? For each service year a determination will be made on which projects should be addressed in harmony with the General Plan. Then the affected congregations will receive a letter from the branch advising them that the LDC representative will meet with the bodies of elders to confirm 'on the spot' the validity of the contents of the General Plan. Later the branch LDC will review all the information and will make its recommendation. If a project is needed and is approved, the congregations will be informed by letter. Thereafter the projects are carried out in harmony with the approved budget for each year and other factors such as obtaining needed permits from the authorities, the location of construction groups, etc. Therefore, if your congregation has not received the notifications mentioned above this means that for the moment it is not on the list of projects to be addressed in the near future.

However, we know that many Kingdom Halls are in need of urgent repair and for that reason beginning last year the exhaustive inspection of all Kingdom Halls in Spain is being carried out. This will permit the users of the Halls and also the branch to quickly tend to the urgent repairs needed so that the Kingdom Halls may continue in use for a longer time without having to rush into a remodeling or building project. This effort is very necessary, as it is impossible to meet the demand for construction or remodeling of Kingdom Halls in our country all at the same time. In this situation priorities must be set even for urgent matters in order to keep our Kingdom Halls operating for as long possible by means of maintenance activity.

Along another line, we take the opportunity to thank the elders for the whole-hearted support they are giving to the new program of Kingdom Hall construction and maintenance. In many cases, a change in viewpoint has been involved. In times past, many decisions concerning Kingdom Halls were made by the bodies of elders, whereas now the branch decides many things. So the effort many of you have put forth is certainly commendable, giving your full support to decisions that are not always easy to understand or to put

into practice. For example, in order to optimize the use of existing Halls, the branch has merged congregations or transferred congregations, and some underutilized Halls have been closed. Such measures have meant some sacrifices for the local brothers, but they are of collective benefit and the quantity of projects needed in the territory has been reduced.—Philippians 2:4.

Besides the above, since some needed projects cannot be addressed until a few years in the future, we greatly appreciate your understanding and cooperation, each one doing his part to keep the Kingdom Hall in the best condition possible until each and every need can be cared for. We are confident that with Jehovah's blessing the day will come when all the needs for Kingdom Halls in the country will be covered.—Proverbs 10:22.

Please receive an expression of our esteem and fervent Christian love.

Your brothers,

Testigos Cristianos de Jehová

c.: Circuit Overseers
LDC Representatives
Construction Group Overseers