

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



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February 13, 2017

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Re: Memorial and Special Talk

Dear Brothers:

Please note the following direction when making arrangements for the Memorial and the special public talk.

Selecting a Memorial Speaker: The body of elders should carefully select a speaker who can present the information in a way that will be clear and understandable to all in attendance, including those who may be present for the first time. The elders should not simply take turns giving this talk each year. If a capable anointed elder is not limited by age, health, or other factors, he should be considered. However, it is not necessary for him to be chosen every year. In this way, the audience can benefit from the good teaching of other capable brothers. The primary concern of the elders when selecting a speaker should be the quality of the talk.

Selecting Brothers to Offer Prayers at the Memorial: The body of elders should select qualified brothers to offer brief but meaningful prayers over the emblems. Those who represent the congregation in prayer should be mature baptized Christians who are known as good examples and who have the respect of the congregation. (*km* 6/00 p. 3) If a capable, qualified, anointed brother is not limited by age, health, or other factors, he should be considered for this privilege. However, the body of elders may have reason to select other qualified brothers to offer the prayers. If an anointed brother gives the talk, it is not necessary for him to offer the prayers over the bread and wine, but he may be asked to offer the final prayer.

Memorial Meeting Times: Although the Memorial talk may begin before sundown, the emblems should not be passed until after sundown. If more than one observance will be held at the same facility, a minimum of 40 minutes between the programs, where possible, should be allotted for those attending to enter and leave. Keep in mind that the 45-minute period allotted for the Memorial talk, including the passing of the emblems, does not include the opening song and prayer, the chairman's concluding announcement, and the closing song and prayer.

Recordings on JW Stream: About one month before the Memorial, a prerecorded Memorial talk will be made available on JW Stream for the benefit of congregations, groups, and pre-groups with very few qualified speakers. The section of the outline entitled "Observing the Memorial of Christ's Death Today" will be omitted from the recording. The local chairman or another brother should handle this section of the talk, during which 1 Corinthians 11:23-25 will be read, the prayers will be offered, and the emblems will be passed. Thereafter, the audience should watch the concluding section of the recording. About one month prior to the special talk, a prerecorded special talk will also be made available on JW Stream. If possible, backup speakers should be assigned in case of technical problems with the recordings of the Memorial and the special talk.

Inactive Ones: 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
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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.

Chairman and Announcements: In connection with the Memorial observance, the chairman should start the meeting in the usual way and then introduce the speaker. After the talk, the chairman should read the announcement that is provided along with this letter and then announce the concluding song. In most cases, he will call on the speaker to offer the closing prayer. Following the delivery of the special talk, the chairman should read the announcement that is provided along with this letter.

Please note that the 2018 Memorial will be held on Saturday, March 31, 2018. The 2019 Memorial will be held on Friday, April 19, 2019.

This letter has been added to the list of policy letters that will be cited in *Index to Letters for Bodies of Elders* (S-22).

We send our warm Christian love.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

c: Circuit overseers

PS to coordinators of the bodies of elders:

The special talk for 2017 is entitled "How to Cultivate Peace in an Angry World." In most congregations, it will be given the week of April 10, 2017. Please arrange for the date and title of the talk to be announced to the congregation at the first midweek meeting after the receipt of this letter.

2017 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 "How to Cultivate Peace in an Angry World." We warmly encourage you to join us in attending this important program. In addition, we invite you to visit our website, jw.org. Bible-based content is available there in over 800 languages. It discusses topics that appeal to married couples, parents, teenagers, young children, and all who want to learn about the Bible.

2017 SPECIAL TALK ANNOUNCEMENT

We are very happy that all of you could attend this special talk that is being delivered worldwide in over 119,000 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, jw.org. Bible-based content is available there in over 800 languages. It discusses topics that appeal to married couples, parents, teenagers, young children, and all who want to learn about the Bible.