

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



Hse. No. J348/4 - Tema Beach Road - Nungua, Accra
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February 14, 2017

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS OF SIGN-LANGUAGE CONGREGATIONS AND GROUPS

Re: Use of Sign-language Videos for Congregation Meetings

Dear Brothers:

The decision to transition our deaf field from American Sign Language to Ghanaian Sign Language since July 2013 has yielded tremendous results. We commend you dear brothers for your support and hard work in making sure that the truth reaches the deaf in the language of their heart.

We appreciate the modest and humble disposition of most of you to get to the level of the deaf by learning and communicating with them in their language instead of trying to teach them a particular version of what sign-language should be. We encourage you to help especially hearing signers among you to cultivate this same disposition. Our goal is to teach the truth to people in the language they understand best and not to promote or coerce them to adapt our type of sign-language. We hope that, with time, we will be able to establish a clearly defined standard for the Ghanaian Sign-language field.

In the meantime, though, it has become necessary to establish some sort of standard at Christian meetings. Currently, each congregation seems to be doing their own thing—a situation which has created a little bit of confusion in the sign-language field. However, it is preferable that all congregations and groups use sign-language videos of the *Watchtower* and *Life and Ministry Meeting* for their meetings. For most congregations this may be the ASL videos. Other congregations may find that some other sign-language videos will work better. In any case, we encourage you to use the organization's videos for your meetings. This means that even though the meetings are held in Ghanaian Sign Language, the videos may either be ASL or another sign-language understood by most of the congregation. The conductor may help break the material down for the benefit of the publishers, and all should be encouraged to participate in Ghanaian Sign Language.

Please after four months of implementing this directive share your observations with the branch office. We will appreciate a feedback as to the effectiveness of this arrangement. We thank you very much for your cooperation in this matter as we work together to meet the spiritual needs of our dear brothers and sisters in the sign-language field.

Please be assured of our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

c: Circuit overseers

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Ps to bodies of elders:

If you find it necessary, make a brief announcement to the congregation regarding this arrangement. Also, encourage publishers to use the field publications in GHS in the ministry.