

# Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



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

June 6, 2017

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS IN THE UNITED STATES BRANCH TERRITORY

Re: Improving Territory Coverage

Dear Brothers:

Reports indicate that in recent years there has been a gradual decline in some rural populations. While population growth has been seen in suburban and most metropolitan areas, the gradual population decline in rural areas has affected many congregations. It is the goal for each congregation to completely cover its territory (including those worked during special campaigns) at least once a year.

What can be done in order to cover your territory within a year? The following should be considered:

- Would reducing the size of personal territories encourage more publishers to obtain one?
- Can better territory coverage be attained through improved organization?
- Could consideration be given to how not-at-homes are handled?
- Would special preaching campaigns assist, such as inviting neighboring congregations from the area to spend full days covering the territory? (If so, please contact your circuit overseer.)
- Does a neighboring congregation have the ability to take a portion of your territory?
- Are you willing to have publishers or pioneers from within the circuit spend a week or more assisting your congregation? (If so, please contact your circuit overseer.)
- Have you requested assistance on the *Congregation Analysis Report* (S-10) form?

If you have taken the steps outlined above and the **territory still has not been completed after two years**, please discuss this with your circuit overseer at his next visit. He will provide further assistance.

It may be determined to recommend converting a portion of your congregation's territory into unassigned territory. If so, the territory population should consist of no less than 4,000-5,000 persons. For this to be accomplished, it may be necessary to combine counties or portions of counties to meet this population requirement. Such recommendations should be submitted by means of the *Territory Adjustment Request* (S-6) form to the Service Department using the Inbox feature on jw.org. Please include the words "Attention Territory Desk" in the subject line of the message.

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We certainly appreciate that much time and effort will be needed to ensure that the territory receives balanced coverage. Recognizing that the lives of those in the territory are at stake, this effort requires prayerful reliance on and guidance from Jehovah. (Phil. 4:6) May Jehovah continue to bless your work. Please accept our warm Christian love and greetings.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation  
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

c: Circuit overseers

PS to circuit overseers:

Especially in view of the recent review and merger of many congregations, your continued insight and observations on territory coverage will be needed. As noted above, please assist the bodies of elders to exhaust all forms of assistance prior to recommending that a congregation's territory be changed to unassigned. You may also wish to review the direction that appeared in the outline *Circuit Overseer Meets With Elders and Ministerial Servants* used during the first half of the 2016 service year (S-337a-17), under the heading "Effectively and Thoroughly Cover Your Territory." Thank you for your diligent efforts to support the preaching of the good news throughout our territory.