

TESTIGOS CRISTIANOS DE JEHOVÁ

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September 11, 2017

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS

Re: Global Assistance Arrangement and Circuit Overseer Assistance Arrangement for the 2018 Service Year

Dear Brothers:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued financial generosity in support of the worldwide preaching work. Your regular and cheerful giving no doubt brings great joy to our God, Jehovah. (2 Cor. 9:7) Knowing of your desire to support the organization, we would like you to consider the Global Assistance Arrangement (GAA) that is sustained by your contributions.

The GAA is designed to prevent and pay for losses resulting from “unexpected events” that could affect the organization. (Eccl. 9:11) It cares for incidents at Kingdom Halls, Assembly Halls, and branch facilities or wherever there is damage that is the result of natural disaster, fire, moisture, theft, or vandalism. The arrangement is based on the principle found at 2 Corinthians 8:14, where we find the apostle Paul’s encouragement that “an equalizing” take place with regard to financial support. Therefore, funds are annually set aside from contributions to the worldwide work to ensure that no loss to a congregation or any other theocratic entity would cause an undue burden on any of our brothers.

For the coming year, the anticipated costs of the GAA would be covered if each publisher were able to contribute approximately 2 Euros. This does not mean that each publisher is expected to contribute this exact amount. Instead, each congregation may choose to pass a resolution to contribute to the worldwide work the amount suggested by the body of elders from the congregation’s funds. Publishers can then contribute to their local congregation in harmony with their resolution.

The funds would then be used to support theocratic activities, including the GAA. Since these contributions are not restricted to any one activity, some congregations may choose to donate a sum greater than the average amount. This would further support the worldwide work and assist other congregations that may not be able to contribute as much. This is in harmony with the Biblical pattern of giving. (Acts 11:29) Some congregations choose to spread out their donation over the year. Others choose to make one donation at the start of the service year. Either method is acceptable.

Congregation members can also support the GAA by giving loving aid to accident victims and by providing volunteer labor for property repairs. In addition, attention toward safe work practices and preventive maintenance enables the organization to operate the GAA at a lower cost.

With regard to the Circuit Overseer Assistance Arrangement, we must commend the willing spirit that has always evident in supporting this. This year, rather than continuing with the previous leasing arrangement, simple vehicles have been purchased for the circuit overseers. This involves an important initial investment, but will result in significant savings in coming years. In fact, this year’s suggested contribution is 5 Euros, somewhat less than last year.

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Your support of these arrangements is greatly appreciated. May Jehovah continue to bless your generous spirit.—Heb. 13:16.

Your brothers,

Testigos Cristianos de Jehová

c: Circuit overseers

PS to bodies of elders:

This postscript should not be read to the congregation, and this letter should not be posted on the information board. However, a copy of this letter and postscript should be given to your accounts servant.

Please take the following steps:

- 1) The secretary should use the number of active publishers to calculate the suggested amount to be contributed by the congregation. (Number of active publishers multiplied by 7 euros [2 + 5].)
- 2) The coordinator of the body of elders should make arrangements to allow the body of elders to review and discuss the suggested amount. The elders may choose to raise or lower the amount based on the economic abilities of the congregation as a whole. Once an amount is agreed upon by the body, they would then determine if they would prefer to contribute this amount in one payment or to make contributions spread over the course of the year.
- 3) Based upon the body's decision, the coordinator of the body of elders should arrange for the next midweek meeting to include the reading of the letter and the congregation's consideration of the resolution. The resolution could simply state:

We the _____ Congregation resolve to donate an additional amount of _____ for the 2018 service year to the worldwide work. This contribution is made up of 2 euros for the Global Assistance Arrangement and 5 euros for the Circuit Overseer Assistance Arrangement. This amount will be donated (in one payment/spread over the course of the year).

- 4) After the resolution has been considered and approved by the congregation, it should be given to the accounts servant to add to the accounts records file along with this letter. This amount should be sent to the branch office using the following entries in the *Hoja de cuentas* on-line: **Resoluciones>Programa Mundial de Ayuda** and **Resoluciones>Programa de Ayuda a los Superintendentes de Circuito**. If the contribution is sent in only one single payment the section "**SOLO ESTE MES**" should be used as can be seen in the following image (example of a congregation with 80 publishers):

Resoluciones	
<u>SOLO ESTE MES</u>	
Obra mundial	<input type="text" value="0,00"/> ?
Programa Mundial de Ayuda	<input type="text" value="160,00"/> ?
Programa de Ayuda a los Superintendentes de Circuito	<input type="text" value="400,00"/> ?

If the contribution is sent in various installments then the section "**PERMANENTES**" should be used, indicating the fixed amount that will be sent every month until the total contribution has been made, as can be seen in the following image (example of a congregation with 80 publishers that sends their contribution in 5 payments):

<u>PERMANENTES</u>	
Obra mundial	<input type="text" value="0,00"/> ?
Programa Mundial de Ayuda	<input type="text" value="32,00"/> ?
Programa de Ayuda a los Superintendentes de Circuito	<input type="text" value="80,00"/> ?

Thank you for your diligence in caring for these necessary matters. If you have any questions on these arrangements, please feel free to contact the Branch Risk Management Desk in the Accounting Department regarding the GAA, and the Service Department regarding the COAA.