

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



The Ridgeway, London, NW7 1RN Telephone: 020 8906 2211

COA:COB October 12, 2017

TO THOSE INTERESTED IN VACATION WITNESSING

Re: Vacation Witnessing

Dear Brothers:

We are pleased to provide direction to those who are interested in vacation witnessing. We have territory assignments to be worked throughout the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. Please note that remote or rural areas will require a vehicle. You can make known your preference on the vacation witnessing questionnaire, though you will be expected to accept the assignment given to you.—Isa. 6:8.

Only one questionnaire is required for each vacation witnessing party, even if the party includes persons from other congregations. However, the respective Congregation Service Committees should be aware of the arrangement and give their approval. Generally, a brother, preferably an elder or ministerial servant, will serve as the group contact. However, if a group is comprised of sisters only, one of them may act as the group contact. The elders of the congregation to which the group is assigned will provide a territory assignment for you. Please note that vacation witnessing groups should be no more than twelve in number.

When you are assigned to work along with a congregation, please bear in mind that the local brothers and sisters are not expected to provide accommodation for any member of the party. Rather, you should be prepared to arrange your own accommodation. It would be beneficial to plan your vacation witnessing well in advance. The dates selected can be throughout the entire year and are not limited to just the summer months. We know you will understand that it is not the responsibility of the branch office or the local congregation to care for such details. Please do not make final bookings for your accommodation until you have received your assignment, otherwise the place you choose may be far from the territory assigned to you. We encourage you to consult the local elders as to the best place to seek accommodation, since they have knowledge of the area. In very isolated island assignments, it may not be practical to attend meetings at the local Kingdom Hall. In these circumstances, you will have to conduct your own meetings.

Please complete the vacation witnessing questionnaire, taking care to supply all the details requested and then pass the form to your Congregation Service Committee. The form should be completed electronically and the Congregation Service Committee should send it as an attachment to the branch office. (When you open the PDF form, you may need to select “Enable all features” to allow it to be filled out electronically.) We will strive to respond promptly in order to give you maximum time to make your arrangements. Please note that application forms should be submitted to the branch office at least three months prior to your planned vacation witnessing trip.

We appreciate your eagerness to assist the preaching work in this way and send our warm Christian love.

Your brothers,
*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

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PS to body of elders:

Please provide a copy of this letter along with a vacation witnessing application form to any who enquire about vacation witnessing. There is no need for this letter to be read to the congregation.

PPS to the bodies of elders of congregations hosting vacation witnessing groups:

Hosting publishers sharing in vacation witnessing does not necessarily involve a lot of work on the part of the local service overseer or others. Depending on the local circumstances, some groups may work along with the congregation on most days, whereas others will be working an isolated territory on their own. The coordinating publisher of the visiting party can be instructed to arrange meetings for the group in that isolated area. Publishers might decide, on a personal basis, to offer accommodation to visitors, but we do not ask the host congregation to make such arrangements. However, the host congregation may give helpful suggestions to those coming as to where to look for accommodation, particularly in view of what territory they would be covering. This could save considerable time and expense in going to and from the territory for the visiting party. A spirit of kindness and helpful assistance should be evident by the local body of elders in supporting groups that come to assist. This results in a positive experience for all involved.