

# TESTIGOS CRISTIANOS DE JEHOVÁ

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December 15, 2017

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS

Re: 2017 Service Year Report

Dear Brothers:

We are pleased to share encouraging highlights from the 2017 service year report. The peak number of publishers was 8,457,107. Jehovah's people spent a total of 2,046,000,202 hours in the ministry, a 3.1 percent increase from last year. We are especially encouraged to see a 7.4 percent increase in the number baptized, with a total of 284,212! This is evidence that we take seriously our commission to "make disciples." (Matt. 28:19) We were delighted to see that the average number of regular pioneers was 1,225,279. This was an 8.6 percent increase! The worldwide Memorial attendance figure was 20,175,477. Significant features of the service year report will soon be available on [jw.org](http://jw.org) and in *JW Library*, *Watchtower ONLINE LIBRARY*, and *Watchtower Library*. These figures provide compelling evidence of Jehovah's blessing on our work.—Isa. 60:22.

As for the activity reported in Spain, you will be pleased to know that an all-time peak in publishers was reached, for a total 112,916, which amounts to a 1% increase over the previous year. On the average, each publisher devoted 11.8 hours monthly to the preaching work, amounting to 1,332, 408 hours every month. It is also very encouraging to see that 16,499 brothers and sisters served as regular pioneers. As a result this evangelizing activity and Jehovah's blessing, during the past service year 2,037 new brothers were baptized. An average of five persons was baptized every day of the year, the equivalent overall of 29 congregations of 70 publishers each. Additionally, 52,000 Bible studies were reported and the attendance at the Memorial of Christ's death totaled 188,092. This summer the Regional Convention "Don't Give Up!" proved to be motivating and very enjoyable, with a total attendance of 129,992. All very stimulating, don't you agree? You also will be glad to know that in the country we already have 34 congregations and 24 groups in the Sign Language field. Also worthy of special mention is the work being done by many brothers in other languages, and it is certainly clear that they also are enjoying Jehovah's rich blessing.

The Spain branch cares for the work in Andorra and Gibraltar as well. In Andorra there are now three congregations (in the Catalan, Portuguese and Spanish languages), with a total of 164 publishers. In Gibraltar there is one Spanish-language congregation and another for English-speaking brothers, with a total of 124 publishers. In both territories the brothers have been constant in their ministry and deserve generous commendation.

Be assured that Jehovah values your faithful service and that he will continue to give you the necessary strength to "fully accomplish your ministry" in the coming year!—2 Tim. 4:5; Isa. 40:31.

Your brothers,

*Testigos Cristianos de Jehová*

c: Circuit overseers

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PS to bodies of elders:

Please arrange for this letter to be read to the congregation by the elder handling the part “Annual Service Report” in the Life and Ministry Meeting the week of January 1, 2018. Thereafter, the letter should be posted on the information board. **This postscript should neither be read to the congregation nor be posted on the information board.**