

TESTIGOS CRISTIANOS DE JEHOVÁ

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KHA March 6, 2018

TO THE BODIES OF ELDERS

Re: Living Quarters Available for the Construction Program

Dear Brothers:

About three years ago the new Kingdom Hall construction program got under way around the world. No doubt Jehovah is blessing this program, as in all parts of the Earth many Kingdom Halls and Assembly Halls are being built, remodeled or refinished. In our country, the four construction groups are working at a good pace and have been able to build 22 Kingdom Halls (with 24 auditoriums) fit our 30 (with 34 auditoriums) and purchase 32 properties to build new Kingdom Halls. Also, important remodeling projects are under way in two of our Assembly Halls. Besides all this, under the direction of the LDC hundreds of brothers are taking part in maintenance work all around the country.—Proverbs 10:22.

We take this opportunity to express appreciation for the good support received from all, whether financial or personal with many volunteering to participate in this construction program. For the brothers your example and words stir others to action, encouraging them to follow your steps. (Hebrews 13:7) Please transmit to the congregation our feelings regarding the support being given.

However, there is a recurring problem that we face and that we would like to share with you. It has to do with the accommodations needed by the construction servants and volunteers. When a construction group is assigned to a new project, it is necessary to look for decent living quarters that will permit these brothers to get sufficient rest and have necessary privacy. Many construction servants are married couples that change assignments every three or four months, and must constantly adapt to new surroundings. In accord with instructions from the Governing Body, an effort is made to find accommodation where these brothers can be alone or enjoy a high degree of privacy. Obviously, the congregations do not always have such lodging available. In these cases, an effort is made to rent apartments for the months of the project's duration. However, it is difficult to find persons willing to rent a dwelling for only a few months, especially if they do not know the tenants. If a solution is not found, as a last resort these brothers are lodged in hotels, residences, a *casa rural*, or whatever, which adds to the cost of the construction project.

How could the publishers be of help in this matter? When the elders involved in a Kingdom Hall construction project in their area explain clearly what the needs are, many brothers are moved to offer accommodation that fill the requirements just described, if they have such available. In other cases, they may know relatives or neighbors that are in a position to offer or rent an apartment for these brothers, with complete confidence that the property will be cared for and the rent paid. As mentioned before, it is easier to permit the use of an apartment or rent it to someone who is known than to strangers. When the elders explain all this to the congregation, many more possibilities may emerge than by simply making an announcement requesting accommodation for the brothers who will come to work on construction.

On the other hand, brothers may have apartments or dwellings in areas where they do not reside, that they only occupy occasionally or when they are on vacation. Could these brothers make such lodging available when a construction project gets under way in the area? Even if rent were paid, this would be of great help. Therefore, we would like to make a list of dwellings offered by the brothers that could be utilized for a construction project is a need arises in the area of your congregation.

In order to know if anyone is willing to offer living quarters in any region of the country, it is necessary to explain all the foregoing to the congregation. So we suggest that in an upcoming local needs part one of the elders approach this matter. He could read some parts of this letter and encourage the brothers to make accommodation of this kind if they so wish. It is important to remember that all this construction activity is part of the sacred service offered by God's people, some working directly on the job, others through their contributions for the construction program and still others through support in the area of logistics, for example offering accommodation.—Hebrews 13.2.

If a brother offers an accommodation after explaining the matter to the congregation, please send a letter to the LDC, including the personal data of the brother (name, telephone number, email), the address of the dwelling or apartment, is it is offered for rent or free of charge. This data will be included in a list by means of which the branch will know in what zones accommodation is available. Should one of the places be needed, the branch will contact the coordinator or secretary of the congregation asking of this accommodation is still available. If so, the brothers making the offer will be contacted.

Thank you very much, dear brothers, for your support in this matter. We are convinced that with Jehovah's help any problem can be overcome, and that this construction activity will continue to produce praise and increasing glory to His great name.—2 Corinthians 4:8.

Please receive an expression of warm greetings and Christian love.

Your brothers,

Testigos Cristianos de Jehová

c.c. Circuit Overseers