

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



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TO ALL CONGREGATIONS IN GHANA

Re: Can We Aim for 500,000?

Dear Brothers:

Every year, Jehovah's people around the world eagerly look forward to the Memorial of Christ's death. This year the Memorial celebration will be on Saturday, **March 31, 2018**.

The worldwide report for 2017 shows that for the over 8,000,000 publishers, there were over 10,000,000 Bible students reported. This is a publisher-to-Bible student ratio of 1:1.5. For this ratio, there were over 20,000,000 attending the Memorial of Christ's death. That was 4,000,000 more people in addition to the publisher and Bible student figures combined.

What was the situation in Ghana? While there were some good reports of areas where a few publishers had a lot of people attend the event, the report for the whole country paints a different picture. We conducted over 400,000 Bible studies every month in 2017. For the over 131,000 publishers reporting, that gives us a publisher-to-Bible student ratio of about 1:3, which is double that of the worldwide report. Our Memorial attendance for 2017 was about 340,000, which can give the impression that only half of all our Bible students attended with the publishers alone *and no other person, not even our little ones who are yet to become publishers attended*. Yet, we know that many first-timers as well as our little ones who are not publishers attended the Memorial as well. This has been the trend over the last 10 years.

Our records however show that we have more potential than we may realize. With the figures above in mind, we can see that if *only just all our Bible students* attended the Memorial with *only all the publishers*, and no one else, our Memorial attendance would have crossed the 530,000 mark!

We can probably now appreciate the subject of this letter. The 500,000 mark is not an unrealistic figure to aim for, for the 2018 Memorial! Can we all give prayerful thought to what we can personally do to invite as many as possible to the Memorial this year? Will we take time to help each Bible student to understand the importance of attending the Memorial? As recently announced, can the elders identify and plan for isolated parts of their territory where Memorial events can be organized for the communities, using the prerecorded Memorial talks? Will field service overseers in densely populated multilingual territories, worked by more than one congregation, cooperate to ensure complete coverage without duplication of efforts? Will we individually make adjustments to increase our share in the ministry during the season and to ensure that we do not miss the Memorial?

So, can we aim for 500,000 to be at the Memorial this year? Yes, we can! By doing our part, and with full confidence in Jehovah's blessing on our efforts, let us 'be courageous and go to work for our God is with us!'—1 Chronicles 28:20.

Please accept our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

c: Circuit Overseers

P.S. to circuit overseers and bodies of elders:

The branch office is interested in organizing and holding the 2018 Memorial in isolated territories in Ghana. Therefore, in harmony with our recent letter on assisting in seldom-worked territories, keep encouraging those who are interested in serving where the need is greater during the annual campaign for the Memorial season. Provide the *Application for Unassigned and Seldom-Worked Territory* forms to those who are interested. When filling out the form, they should simply state the region they would be able to travel to, if they do not have a specific remote area in mind. After that, the Congregation Service Committee will submit the approved list to the Service Department for the attention of the Territory Desk by **March 5, 2018**.

When elders realize that there are areas within their vicinity where they can organize remote Memorial events, they should discuss this with the circuit overseer. Especially since the videos will be available, qualified ministerial servants can be assigned to remote areas to organize and oversee the event.

Circuit overseers too should be giving advance thought to which areas in their circuits will benefit from remote Memorial events and what they can do to assist individuals, congregations and their entire circuits with any efforts they make to be at the Memorial and to invite as many as possible to come.