

TESTIGOS CRISTIANOS DE JEHOVÁ

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SC:SE January 25, 2019

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS

Re: 2019 Regional and International Convention Attendance and Seating Capacity of the Venues

Dear Brothers:

We are pleased to provide important information related to the international convention that will be held in Madrid, as well as the regional conventions that will take place simultaneously throughout Spain.

A great deal of work is involved in organizing these events. Many challenges must be met, but surely with Jehovah's blessing and the cooperation of everyone, all obstacles will be overcome and a great witness given. The cooperation of all publishers in our territory will be needed, especially in two respects: 1) Attend the convention where the congregation is assigned, and 2) Respect the seating capacity of rented facilities.

It is vital, dear brothers, to understand the importance of attending the convention to which each one's congregation is assigned. In all locations there is comfortable seating, areas of shade and other conditions needed so that the brothers of the congregations assigned and the interested persons of that area may enjoy an atmosphere that is ideal to receive spiritual food. On the other hand, the seating capacity is limited in each case. If exceeded, serious problems could affect the safety of those in attendance. Therefore, we ask everyone to please have in mind this important point, based on the principle found at Philippians 2:4, to 'look out not only for our own interests, but also for the interests of others.' Remembering these words will help us all to make wise and sensible decisions.

Regarding another aspect, tickets will be used for admission to the convention sites, as in recent years. Tickets will be sent to the congregations invited to each location. If one traveled to a convention different from that assigned, it would be necessary to wait at the entrance until the attendants can supply a ticket. These situations may be uncomfortable, but they can be avoided if we make every effort to attend the convention where we are assigned. Another factor is that this year all conventions in Spanish will be simultaneous; if there is a conflict in our schedule it will not be possible to attend elsewhere on a different date. So careful planning will be needed. (Proverbs 21:5) In harmony with the above, brothers who are assigned to a certain convention should not be encouraged to attend elsewhere to be with family or friends. We trust in your cooperation and assistance, dear brothers, and express our thanks in advance.

Receive an expression of warm regards and fervent Christian love

Your brothers,

Testigos Cristianos de Jehová

Attachment(s)

c: Bodies of elders
Circuit Overseers
2019 Convention Committees

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PS to the bodies of elders: Please have this letter read to the congregation at the next midweek meetings, and continue to follow through closely on this matter. All plans now being made could come to grief if we are not capable of teaching the brothers the need to be obedient when making their plans. This direction given is neither arbitrary nor capricious. The authorities are very demanding in relation to the capacity of each location. Also, as Christians we consider life to be sacred and this principle is the basis for these measures. Our letter of August 7, 2018, pointed out that the brothers should be asked to please attend the assembly to which the congregation is assigned, that the seating capacity is limited and the assignment of congregations follows calculations for each location, so being negligent in this could cause serious problems affecting the safety of the brothers. Therefore, it would not be appropriate for anyone, elders included, to invite others—even though they may be relatives or friends—to attend a convention other than that assigned. So please be alert to extend loving but firm assistance to the brothers who may have doubts on this matter.