

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

August 2019

*Coordinator of the body of elders:* The announcements and reminders **for the congregation** should be read at the next midweek meeting and thereafter posted on the information board for one month.

### FOR THE ELDERS ONLY

1. **Memorial:** In preparation for the 2020 Memorial, please review the direction in the *Shepherd* book, chapter 20, paragraphs 6 and 8, on selecting a Memorial speaker and selecting Memorial meeting times.

As in previous years, there will be a worldwide effort to invite as many as possible to attend. This special campaign will begin Saturday, March 14, 2020, and extend through Tuesday, April 7, 2020. Each congregation should submit a request for invitations by **Tuesday, September 10, 2019**, using item number 7959. If a request is not received from your congregation by the due date, a ratio of 40 invitations per publisher and 120 per pioneer will be sent to your congregation. To prevent waste, any information printed directly on the invitations should be verified before printing begins. Please ensure that any 2019 invitations have been discarded. A Memorial invitation in braille will be sent automatically to publishers who regularly receive braille items from the branch office. Additional invitations in braille can be requested beginning January 1, 2020. Publishers will be allowed to leave Memorial invitations where no one is at home if the elders deem this to be practical.

2. **Special Public Talk:** The prerecorded special talk mentioned in the announcement to the congregation will be available on JW Stream about one month prior to the week it is to be presented. Please assign an elder or a ministerial servant to download the prerecorded talk from JW Stream (using his jw.org credentials) several weeks before the congregation is scheduled to view it. Since there may be multiple recordings available in the same language, in early 2020 the branch office will inform groups and congregations which recording they should use. If possible, a backup speaker should be assigned in case of technical problems with the recording. If a congregation or group does not have the necessary equipment to view the recording or if the recording is not available in the language of the congregation or group, the body of elders should assign a qualified speaker to give the talk in the usual manner. Since the special talk will be a revised version of Talk No. 56, "Into the New World Under Christ's Leadership," the current version should not be presented after September 1, 2019.

3. **Global Assistance Arrangement:** In harmony with the announcement to the congregation, please arrange for a resolution to be considered by the congregation authorizing the following amount to be sent from congregation funds each month for the 12-month period of September 2019 through August 2020: (per-publisher amount noted on jw.org) x (number of active publishers) ÷ 12. If preferred, the entire amount may be sent at one time. If the body of elders thinks that the suggested amount would impose a hardship on the congregation or that the congregation is in a position to contribute more, the resolved amount may be adjusted accordingly.

The resolution should be written as follows: "In support of the Global Assistance Arrangement, we, the \_\_\_\_\_ Congregation, resolve to donate \_\_\_\_\_ to the worldwide work during the 2020 service year. These donations will be made from congregation funds, which are contributed in our boxes marked for congregation expenses. The resolved amount will be donated (in one payment/spread over the course of the year)."

- *Coordinator of the body of elders:* If before the next midweek meeting the body of elders has approved the amount to be included in the resolution, arrange for the resolution to be presented following the reading of the attached announcement. Otherwise, inform the congregation that the resolution mentioned in the announcement will be presented the following week. Before the announcement is made and posted on the information board, fill in the per-publisher amount noted on jw.org.

- *Secretary*: Ensure that the resolution approved by the congregation is given to the accounts servant along with the appropriate instructions for remitting the resolved donation to the branch office.

4. **General Data Protection Regulation:** The letter to all congregations of May 13, 2019, stated that the *date and address only* of the householders requesting that no further visits be made to their home should be noted down by the publisher and placed in the territory record. The question arose, whether in connection with the address also the name of the corresponding person can be noted down. Normally, the name does not belong to the address and will not be noted down. However, if it is absolutely necessary to note down the name to uniquely identify a specific person as in the case described above (e.g., in apartment buildings), the name may also be added to the date and address. In a future revision of the “*Addendum to “Shepherd the Flock of God”—1 Peter 5:2,*” this clarifying note will be added.

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August 2019

### FOR THE CONGREGATION

1. **Memorial:** On Tuesday evening, April 7, 2020, we will gather to observe the Lord's Evening Meal. (Luke 22:19) No midweek meeting will be scheduled that week. Additionally, please note that the 2021 Memorial observance will be held on Saturday, March 27, 2021. The 2022 Memorial observance will be held on Friday, April 15, 2022.

2. **Special Public Talk:** To generate enthusiasm for the Memorial, the 2020 special talk will be presented one week before the Memorial, during the week of March 30, 2020. Congregations that have an assembly or the visit of the circuit overseer the week of March 30 will usually have the special talk one week earlier. Most congregations will view a talk that has been prerecorded by the branch office, and in many cases, given by a member of the Branch Committee. We hope this advance notice will be helpful to you in preparing for these important events.

3. **Global Assistance Arrangement:** The Global Assistance Arrangement allows the organization to care for incidents at Kingdom Halls, Assembly Halls, and branch facilities—including damage resulting from a natural disaster, fire, theft, or vandalism. For the next service year, the anticipated cost for these incidents would be covered if each publisher contributed approximately EUR 3,00 / CHF 3,00. This does not mean that each publisher is expected to contribute this exact amount. Instead, each congregation may choose to pass a resolution to contribute to the worldwide work and publishers can then contribute to their local congregation in harmony with their resolution.

**Circuit Overseer Assistance Arrangement:** The branch office will spend in the next 12 months about EUR 7,00 in the euro countries and about 11,00 Swiss francs in Switzerland per publisher for leasing, service, insurance and fuel.

4. **Offering Literature:** As a reminder, each publisher can decide which literature in the Teaching Toolbox to offer to an interested person and when. While our objective is not just to distribute literature, it is appropriate to offer literature when genuine interest is shown, whether on the initial visit or on a return visit. (*w18.10* p. 15 par. 18) Please note that the placement of contact cards may be reported on the *Field Service Report* (S-4) in the same way that other placements are reported.

5. **Pioneer Service:** Any exemplary publishers who desire to expand their ministry by serving as auxiliary or regular pioneers should submit the appropriate application to a member of the Congregation Service Committee. As a reminder, publishers can choose to auxiliary pioneer with a reduced hour requirement each March and April and during the month of the circuit overseer's visit. The Governing Body wishes to express their heartfelt appreciation for all of the hard working pioneers in each congregation, including those who have been asked to support various other theocratic projects and as a result may not be as visible in the ministry.