

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

March 2018

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 noticeboard for one month.

FOR THE ELDERS ONLY

1. Convention Reminders: During a local needs part prior to the start of your congregation's convention invitation campaign, play the video *Convention Reminders*, which is available on *JW Library*. (Look under MEDIA > VIDEO > OUR MEETINGS AND MINISTRY > MEETINGS, ASSEMBLIES, AND CONVENTIONS.) Thereafter, outline local arrangements for the campaign, which will begin three weeks before the convention.—*mwb16.04* p. 8.

During a local needs part a month or two following the convention, play the convention video trailer that will be available to you on *jw.org* in early June. (Log in to your *jw.org* account. Look under DOCUMENTS > EVENT MEDIA.) By means of an audience discussion, review highlights of the programme, particularly those that relate to the ministry.

2. DPA Cards: As directed in *Supporting Those With Medical Needs* (S-139), the secretary should ensure that all newly-baptized publishers are provided with a DPA card. It is preferred that, when needed, a supply of the DPA card be requested from the branch office in the same manner as literature. However, the card may be printed by elders from *jw.org* in emergency situations. Electronic copies of the card are not to be provided to publishers in general.

3. Review of Pioneers' Field Service Activity: The secretary and the service overseer should review the field service activity of all regular pioneers.—See the May 15, 2017, letter to all bodies of elders, paragraph 20.

4. How to Remain in God's Love: Language-coordinating congregations may use the mnemonic *lvs* or the item number 5343 when requesting this item.

5. Time and Location of Memorial Observance: Please update *jw.org* with the time and location of your congregation's Memorial observance if you have not already done so. If a group or pre-group hosted by your congregation will be holding a separate Memorial observance, the time and location for that Memorial should also be entered on *jw.org*. Additionally, the recorded announcement on any phone answering system used for the Kingdom Hall should include the time and location of the Memorial observance(s).—See the December 2, 2017, letter to all bodies of elders for additional direction on phone answering systems.

6. Branch-Specific Announcements and Reminders: When the elders in foreign-language congregations go to *jw.org* to access the *Announcements and Reminders* (S-147) form for a given month, they should be alert to any notes on the screen indicating that there are branch-specific items that are not included in the foreign-language version of the form.

7. Memorial 2018: Once again pre-recorded Memorial discourses will be available on JW Stream in various languages including British Sign Language, Irish, Irish Sign Language, Scottish Gaelic, Somali and Welsh. These talks may be downloaded in advance of the event. Only the talk part of the outline is pre-recorded. The body of elders should select a local chairman and brothers to offer the prayers. The chairman or another local brother should handle the "Observing the Memorial of Christ's Death Today" section of the Memorial talk, during which 1 Corinthians 11:23-25 is read, prayers are offered, and the emblems are passed. The passing of the emblems should not occur until after sunset. Thereafter, the audience may watch the concluding section of the recording.

When the recording ends, the local chairman should read the Memorial announcement for the benefit of interested ones in attendance and then announce the final song. As a reminder, approval is at the discretion of the circuit overseer for each congregation, group, pregroup or isolated publisher.

8. Special Preaching Campaign in Ireland: A special preaching campaign has been approved by the Governing Body to assist the English- and Irish-speaking fields in Ireland during the months of May and June 2018.

9. Note to Congregation Service Committees not in Ireland: If it is determined that an applicant is exemplary, willing to closely follow direction and otherwise qualified, the committee should immediately send the application (please download the *Application for Special Campaign in Ireland*) to the branch office using the jw.org inbox and select the Service Department as the recipient. Please ensure you include 'Ireland Special Preaching Campaign' in the subject line. Of course, if you do not recommend a particular brother or sister to share in this special campaign, you should kindly explain the decision to the applicant.

Please encourage the brothers to apply for this campaign as soon as possible and ensure that the applications are filled in legibly. If for some reason there are changes in the plans of an individual after his form has been sent to us, kindly ask him to inform us of these changes. He may do so by writing to our branch address or to the following email address: InboxSRV.gb@jw.org. Although we might be in a position to accept late applications after March 16, 2018, we would prefer to receive them as soon as possible.

- **Note to bodies of elders in Ireland:** The branch office will assign applicants to a congregation. Priority will be given to those congregations who find it a challenge to regularly cover their territory. However, it will be clearly explained that it is the individual's responsibility to arrange for their own accommodation and transport. In this way the arrangement will not place a burden on the publishers in the local congregations. The local congregation will be informed when an individual or party has been assigned to assist in this campaign. We feel sure that you will provide a warm welcome to these self-sacrificing brothers and sisters.

In addition to the direction in the letter to all bodies of elders in Ireland, SDK February 13, 2018, please download the *Sample Expressions and Presentations in English and Irish* document along with the *Sample Expressions and Presentations Audio* file. These should be made available to all publishers during the campaign so they can use the Irish-language literature in the most effective way possible.

10. Branch Relocation Quarterly Newsletter to Congregations – Spring 2018: Please print out edition 7 of the newsletter in full colour, inform the congregation using the announcement below, then place on the noticeboard removing all previous newsletters.

11. Processing of A-19 Applications: If a sister with minor children applies for the Day Volunteer Programme (DVP) at the branch relocation project, please make a discreet enquiry to ascertain whether suitable arrangements are in place to care for the children.

- **Note to Congregation Service Committees:** The Congregation Service Committee should include a note along with the A-19 form providing a brief comment explaining what arrangements are in place. Please also provide an explanatory note for any DVP applications of this kind that have already been submitted to the branch.

12. Commercial Delivery of Magazines and Literature: As part of the ongoing simplification of branch operations, the Publishing Committee of the Governing Body has directed that we investigate commercial delivery for all magazines and literature. We have been asked to implement the new

delivery methods across the whole of the UK and Ireland by the time the branch relocates to Chelmsford. To accomplish this, over the coming months, we will need to run trials in specific areas. It is anticipated that the trial deliveries will be on a monthly basis. Congregations involved will be contacted directly.

After more than 50 years of caring for magazine and literature delivery with our own truck fleet, this will be a significant change that will call for adjustments for us all. It may mean that some congregations will have to travel a little further to collect their supplies, but we are confident that blessings will result as we work in harmony with the direction provided.

If you are aware of any brothers who may be willing to accept deliveries for multiple congregations at business or other suitable properties they own, please inform the Transport Desk via jw.org.

More information will be provided in due course, but we would like to thank you in advance for your cooperation with any future adjustments.

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FOR THE CONGREGATION

1. ***How to Remain in God's Love:*** We are pleased to inform you that the new publication entitled *How to Remain in God's Love* will soon be available in English. It will be made available in other languages in due course. This edition covers the same subjects as the book "*Keep Yourselves in God's Love*" and follows the simplified style of the book *What Can the Bible Teach Us?* Each chapter of the *Remain in God's Love* book includes a summary of the Bible principles discussed. Instead of an appendix, this book includes endnotes that closely relate to the "Glossary of Bible Terms" in the revised *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures*. Once this new book is available in a particular language, publishers may decide whether to transition Bible students to the new book or to complete the "*God's Love*" book with the student.

2. **Special Preaching Campaign in Ireland:** A special preaching campaign has been approved by the Governing Body to assist the English- and Irish-speaking fields in Ireland during the months of May and June 2018. The goal of the special campaign includes covering unassigned or less covered territories. Up to 700 publishers in Britain and 300 from the United States are being invited to go to Ireland for a minimum of one week, or for longer, to assist in this campaign. Therefore, if you would like to apply to participate with the publishers in Ireland in this campaign, please see your congregation secretary for an application form. All applications should be submitted to the branch office via the Congregation Service Committee by **March 16, 2018**. So that no burden is placed on the local congregations in Ireland, all participants will need to care for their own accommodation and transport needs. Congregations in Ireland will assign elders and pioneers to take the lead in the campaign, to arrange meetings for field ministry, and to assist wherever they can.

3. **Branch Relocation Quarterly Newsletter to Congregations – Spring 2018:** We are happy to inform you that Edition 7 of our Branch Relocation Newsletter will be posted on the congregation noticeboard after the meeting.