

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REMINDERS

December 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 information board for one month.

### FOR THE ELDERS ONLY

1. **Public Witnessing:** In harmony with the February 1, 2018, letter to all bodies of elders, the Congregation Service Committee should ensure that when determining locations for public witnessing, primary consideration is given to areas of high pedestrian traffic that are most visible in accordance with local regulations. Additionally, the service overseer or another elder designated by the body of elders should remind all publishers approved to participate in this form of service of the direction contained in paragraph 1 of *Public Witnessing Guidelines* (S-148). The publishers should be kindly reminded that it is inappropriate to stand or sit long distances from the carts or to engage in deep conversation with one another rather than paying attention to passersby.

2. **Serving Where the Need is Greater in Ireland:** After the announcement to congregations in Britain has been read, the following action should be taken. Please meet with publishers who are interested in moving to Ireland and kindly review their plans with them. Do not discourage them from considering this move if they are able to effectively give a witness, or strengthen a congregation. The need is for **self-sustaining** publishers in good standing who **use the field ministry suggestions provided**. Handle any enquiry according to the *Organized* book, chapter 10, paragraphs 6-9. Please be clear in any letter of recommendation about whether the publisher will be effective in addressing ministry needs.

3. **Reminders When Completing A-19 Applications:** The branch office is receiving hundreds of *Application for Volunteer Program* (A-19) forms each month from those wishing to volunteer for Bethel, branch relocation and other theocratic construction projects. We continue to find that many of the applications received are incomplete, resulting in a significant delay in processing and making assignments. Please note the following:

- The congregation secretary should make sure that all questions have been answered by the applicant and the service committee.
- A suitable picture for all applicants is a requirement.
- A copy of any necessary visa/residency documentation for non-EU citizens is required.
- If the applicant is a close relative of a member of the Congregation Service Committee, arrange for another elder to substitute in rating the applicant.
- If a sister with minor children applies for the Day Volunteer Programme, please make a discreet enquiry to ascertain whether suitable arrangements are in place to care for the children. The service committee should then provide a brief comment explaining what arrangements are in place, including any that have already been submitted to the branch.

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### FOR THE CONGREGATION

1. **Sample Presentations:** In harmony with the Governing Body's direction that publishers give priority to starting conversations in the field ministry rather than only placing literature, beginning in 2019, *Awake!* and the public edition of *The Watchtower* will no longer include a sample presentation on page 2.

2. **Serving Where the Need is Greater in Ireland: (To be read only to congregations in Britain.)** Publishers with an Irish heritage are being encouraged to consider prayerfully if they can move to serve where the need is greater in Ireland. A recent review of the exciting growth in Ireland highlighted that those who come from Ireland, or those whose family have Irish connections, are more quickly accepted by the local communities. This can open up the way to give an effective witness to the local population. Of course, all publishers in good standing can offer themselves to serve where the need is greater. As this system nears its end, we are encouraged to consider prayerfully how we can best use our talents in Jehovah's service to reach those "rightly disposed for everlasting life." (Acts 13:48) While publishers will be expected to make their own arrangements when moving to Ireland, the branch will provide some practical guidance and direction on where they can best serve. If you would like further details, please see a member of your service committee.