

Announcements and Reminders

February 2020

FOR THE ATTENTION OF ALL ELDERS

- 2020 Special Talk:** All elders and ministerial servants who serve as public speakers should carefully review the special talk outline “Whose Leadership Can You Trust?” (No. 56), pages 52-55 of the *Ministry School* book, and *Reminders for Those Assigned Public Talks* (S-141) before the talk is presented to the congregation.
- 2020 Memorial:** Please follow the instructions regarding preparations for the Memorial that appear in the *Shepherd* book, chapter 20, paragraphs 6-12, including the instruction that the prayers over the emblems should be brief but meaningful.
- Choose Your Apps Wisely Video:** This video should be played the week of March 23, 2020, during the 15-minute local needs part. In due course, the video will be made available to elders in the “Event Media” section of jw.org when logged in. After playing the video, ask the audience the following questions: (1) Does the faithful and discreet slave produce all mobile apps that seem to be designed for Jehovah’s Witnesses? (2) How can you determine if a mobile app or a website is from the faithful and discreet slave? (3) What danger exists with mobile apps and websites that seem to be designed for Jehovah’s Witnesses but are not provided by the faithful and discreet slave? (4) How should the principle at 1 Thessalonians 5:21 affect which mobile apps or websites you use? As time allows, highlight main points from “Questions From Readers” in the April 2018 issue of *The Watchtower*, pages 30-31. Also, encourage those in the audience to review that article during family worship.
- Disfellowshipped or Disassociated Ones:** See the *Shepherd* book, chapter 25, paragraph 20, for reminders on when it may be appropriate for an elder to make brief contact with a disfellowshipped or disassociated individual.
- Printed Copies of the Shepherd Book:** In April 2020, a revised edition of the *Shepherd* book will be made available for download by elders in a number of languages on jw.org in the PDF, JWPUB, and EPUB formats. While elders are encouraged to make good use of electronic copies of the book, those needing printed copies may now inform their service overseer. When shipped, the printed books will be wrapped to ensure confidentiality and will be labeled for delivery to the coordinator of the body of elders.

FOR FOLLOW-THROUGH BY THE COORDINATOR OF THE BODY OF ELDERS

- Announcements and Reminders for the Congregation:** Ensure that the announcements and reminders for the congregation are read at the next midweek meeting and thereafter posted on the information board for one month.
- 2020 Special Talk:** A new document entitled *Special Talk Chairman* (S-125) has been prepared. This document contains the announcement the chairman should read to the audience at the conclusion of the talk. Ensure that the special talk chairman is provided with the name and form of service of the speaker, if available. (See *Assignment to View Special Talk* [S-52], which was referred to in January’s *Announcements and Reminders* [S-147]). Please confirm that all ministerial servants who serve as public speakers have access to the necessary material [outlined above](#) before the special talk.

3. **2020 Memorial:** A new document entitled *Memorial Chairman* (S-126) has been prepared. This document contains the announcement the chairman should read to the audience at the conclusion of the talk.

4. **Annual Service Report:** The announcement to be read to the congregation during the part “Annual Service Report” the week of February 24, 2020, appears in the February 1, 2020, letter to all congregations. The announcement should not be read to the congregation before the week of February 24, 2020.

5. **Announcements to the congregation regarding new publications.** After considering the needs of the congregation, the body of elders can decide if the announcements regarding the publications presented this month should be read to the congregation.

FOR FOLLOW-THROUGH BY THE SERVICE OVERSEER

1. **Printed Copies of the *Shepherd Book*:** Please ensure that requests for printed copies of the *Shepherd* book are promptly submitted to the branch office in the same way that requests for other special-request items are submitted. Use the mnemonic *sfl* or the item number 5436 when requesting *Shepherd*.

2. ***Learn to Read Braille (Starter Kit)*:** As a follow-up to the January 2019 *Announcements and Reminders* (S-147), replacements of the individual components of the *Learn to Read Braille* starter kit are available for request. Please use the mnemonics or item numbers listed below when submitting requests. As a reminder, the complete kit contains all four components and may be requested using the mnemonic *lbrk* or the item number 66930.

(1) *Learn to Read Braille* brochure: mnemonic *lbr*, item number 6693

(2) *Listen to God and Live Forever* brochure: mnemonic *ll*, item number 6657

(3) Positive slate: mnemonic *lbrps*, item number 66931

(4) Stylus: mnemonic *lbrsy*, item number 66932

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FOR THE CONGREGATION

1. **Auxiliary Pioneering:** March and April are ideal times to auxiliary pioneer. The special campaign to invite as many as possible to the Memorial begins on Saturday, March 14, 2020. In most congregations, the special talk, “Whose Leadership Can You Trust?,” will be presented the week of March 30, 2020. And this year, the Memorial will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2020. No midweek meeting will be scheduled for that week. As a reminder, during the months of March and April and during the month of the circuit overseer’s regular visit, publishers have the option of choosing a 30-hour requirement. We encourage you to make your plans now for increased service during these months.

2. **World Headquarters Audio/Video Construction Project:** As announced at the 2019 annual meeting, the construction of a new audio/video facility near the world headquarters in Warwick, New York, is planned to begin in 2022. The new facility will benefit publishers around the globe, as audio and video teaching tools continue to be provided for our use in the ministry and at meetings, assemblies, and conventions. If you wish to support this project with a specific donation, a new donation type entitled “World Headquarters Audio/Video Construction” has been made available on donate.jw.org for making one-time and recurring donations. Any donations in excess of what is needed for this project will be used to support the worldwide work. Therefore, if you are not able to donate online, you may support this project by donating to the worldwide work at your Kingdom Hall. Thank you for your generous donations to support this exciting project.

3. **New publication in Galician.** We are pleased to announce that beginning this month a secular translation of the Bible - *A Biblia, versión da Sociedade de Estudos, Publicacións e Traballos (SEPT)* will be available on *JW Library*, *JW.ORG*, and *Watchtower ONLINE LIBRARY*.

4. **New songbook *Sing Out Joyfully (sjj)* in Basque.** We are pleased to announce that soon a new songbook with 49 songs from the songbook *Sing Out Joyfully (sjj)* will be published for the Basque language in electronic format. Progressively, other songs from this songbook will be made available. In addition, the videos for singing along with the lyrics on the screens at the Kingdom Halls will be published as well. Starting with the month of May, the Basque editions of the *Meeting Workbook* and *The Watchtower* will indicate, along with the number for each song, which songbook to use during the congregation meetings. For this, the symbol **sjj** will be used for the new songbook *Sing Out Joyfully*, and **sn** if the song is from the songbook *Sing Praises to Jehovah*.