

Announcements and Reminders

December 2020

FOR CONGREGATIONS

1. **2021 Special Public Talk and Memorial:** You may wish to mark the following dates on your calendar. The Memorial will be on Saturday, March 27, 2021. To generate enthusiasm for the Memorial, the special talk will be presented during the week of March 15, 2021. The theme is “Have You Found a ‘Pearl of High Value’?” Congregations that have an assembly or the visit of the circuit overseer the week of March 15 will usually have the special talk one week earlier. For our congregation, the special talk will be presented on [Date]. Most congregations will enjoy a live talk presented via videoconference.

2. **Provision for Reporting Less Than 15 Minutes:** We deeply appreciate your efforts to share in the ministry each month despite the restrictions imposed upon us by the COVID-19 pandemic. We have no doubt that Jehovah understands your circumstances and treasures your whole-souled service. We are therefore pleased to inform you that, until further notice, any publisher who shares in the ministry during a month, even if this amounts to less than 15 minutes, will continue as an active publisher. If you share in the ministry for less than one hour, all you will need to do is to inform your group overseer that you shared in the ministry during the month. You do not need to specify the number of minutes you shared in preaching. As you do what you can to fully accomplish your ministry, please be assured of our warm Christian love and best wishes.—**Read 2 Corinthians 8:12.**

3. **Maintaining Precautions During the Pandemic:** In many communities, COVID-19 is spreading very quickly. While we may be alert to take safety precautions when caring for essential matters that require us to come in contact with the *public*, we may be inclined to let our guard down when we have necessary contact with *family and friends* outside of our household. Therefore, we kindly remind you of the importance of taking safety precautions *at all times*. Such precautions include wearing face coverings, maintaining physical distancing, and washing hands regularly. If you experience cold or flulike symptoms, it would be best for you to stay home and notify your health-care provider.

4. **Preaching During the Pandemic:** The following information is an update to the instructions for preaching during the pandemic.

- **Telephone Witnessing:** Recently, some publishers have encountered obstacles to their telephone witnessing. Henceforth, we would like to encourage you to concentrate your telephone witnessing efforts *strictly* on acquaintances and relatives. We see clear evidence of the wisdom and discretion of following this instruction at this time – Prov. 22:3
- **Alternative Preaching Methods:** After the conclusion of the special campaign at the end of November, publishers should no longer send unsolicited text messages and e-mails to people they do not know personally. Neither should they send text messages or e-mails to businesses, companies, or institutions, even when these have provided a “contact us” e-mail address.
- **Preaching by Writing Letters:** Publishers may keep the letters they write or send them by post. Those deciding to send letters by post should keep in mind that, in order to comply with data protection regulations, the name of the recipient should not be included, only their address. However, publishers may refer to the recipient

as “neighbor”, “occupant”, or something similar. The sender’s return address should appear on the envelope, preferably with the mailing address of the publisher. If you feel that it would be unwise to provide such information to strangers that you preach to by mail, you may request permission from the elders to use the address of the Kingdom Hall. The address of the Watch Tower Society should never be used as this would improperly indicate that the letter was sent by the Society’s offices. (*be* pp. 71-73) Similarly, we should not use the address of the branch office as the return address.

5. New Consecutive Historical Peaks for our Branch Territory: We are pleased to announce that during the months of August, September, and October 2020 we recorded three new consecutive all-time peaks in the number of publishers. In the months of September and October, we also recorded two consecutive peaks in the number of regular pioneers. In the month of October, a new peak of 118,270 publishers and 19,288 regular pioneers was reported in the territory under the supervision of the Spanish branch office.