

ELDERS MEET WITH REGULAR PIONEERS, SPECIAL PIONEERS, AND FIELD MISSIONARIES

PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER 2013 THROUGH JANUARY 2014

Note to the elders:

This meeting is to be conducted in December or January by two elders selected by the body of elders. Other elders may attend. The meeting should be positive, practical, and encouraging. Allow those in attendance to comment freely on the questions posed. Supplemental questions may be used as needed and as time allows

Theme: ‘Remember Those Who Are Taking the Lead Among You and Imitate Their Faith’ (Heb 13:7)

THOSE TAKING THE LEAD AMONG YOU (5 min.)

Paul urged: “Remember those who are taking the lead among you, who have spoken the word of God to you, and as you contemplate how their conduct turns out, imitate their faith” (Heb 13:7)

Today, we can observe the faithful and discreet slave taking the lead among us with faith (Mt 24:45)

Jesus has placed a weighty responsibility on the Governing Body. That responsibility includes overseeing material assets, the preaching activity, assembly and convention programs, and the production of Bible literature for use in the field ministry and in personal and congregation study (*w13 7/15 23 par. 14*)

Pioneers and missionaries are excellent examples in imitating the faith of the faithful slave

[Take time to sincerely commend the pioneers for the ways in which they give evidence of their faith while in the pioneer service]

IMITATE THEIR FAITH AS “THE SCENE OF THIS WORLD IS CHANGING” (10 min.)

At 1 Corinthians 7:31, Paul was evidently comparing the world to a stage with ever-changing scenes and actors. These changes require that the faithful and discreet slave make adjustments from time to time in our preaching methods, use of resources, and understanding

They follow Jesus Christ’s example and wisely adapt to changes

[Read Matthew 10:9, 10]

Question: What were the initial instructions to the disciples?

[Read Luke 22:35, 36]

Question: What were the instructions afterwards? Why was there a change to carrying a money bag and food pouch?

[In anticipation of future hostility toward his disciples and the expansion of the preaching work into other territories (Ac 1:8; 16:19-24)]

This is a principle the faithful and discreet slave has followed as the world changes

Question: How can we imitate the faithful and discreet slave?

[We should examine our circumstances and be alert to changes around us]

It will require faith on our part to apply God’s words and the direction that we receive from the Governing Body

We will review three areas in which we can continue to imitate the faith of those taking the lead: (1) preaching methods, (2) Bible reading, and (3) use of resources

PREACHING METHODS (17 min.)

From house to house

The faithful and discreet slave has indicated that our primary way of spreading the good news continues to be the house-to-house ministry (*km 7/13 4 par. 1*)

That method of preaching has its basis in the Scriptures (Ac 5:42; 20:20, 21; *w91 1/15 12 par. 8*)

As pioneers, you realize that person-to-person discussions on the doorstep are very effective

Question: What obstacles have you found in the house-to-house ministry?

During recent years, pioneers in some areas are finding it increasingly difficult to speak to people at their home

Questions: How can we imitate the faithful and discreet slave in addressing this matter? What suggestions have they given us? [*km* 11/98 4 pars. 5-7]

[Elders should listen carefully to see how they could help the pioneers. Perhaps it might be necessary to make some adjustments in the arrangements for house-to-house preaching activity]

Multilanguage territory

Today, people have become increasingly mobile. Globalization has opened a new era of migration. How has the Governing Body addressed this matter?

Although they want us to focus primarily on those who speak the language of the congregation we are associated with, we should be mindful of and attentive to the needs of those who speak another language and look for ways to share God's Kingdom message

Question: How can we help people who do not speak our language? [*km* 12/12 5; *km* 11/09 3-4 pars. 2-5]

Public witnessing

Question: Do you see areas of the territory where the congregation could further participate in public witnessing?

[Determine if the congregation's territory has areas of high pedestrian traffic and if it would be practical to organize public witnessing if such is not already being done. See the latest direction on the subject of public witnessing in *Index to Letters for Bodies of Elders* (S-22)]

Some congregations may not have a location in their territory that has sufficient pedestrian traffic to justify setting up a table or making use of a mobile literature display. However, even in those congregations, publishers are encouraged to consider including public witnessing in their ministry

READING THE BIBLE AND CHRISTIAN PUBLICATIONS (17 min.)

The Governing Body has emphasized the need for daily Bible reading and good study habits. They speak the Word of God to us (Heb 13:7)

Question: How do you think we could imitate them in Bible reading? [**Read Psalm 1:1-3**]

Do we keep up to date with new Bible understanding?

[**Read and discuss Matthew 25:31-34, 41, 46**]

Questions: When will Jesus judge the people as sheep or goats? How does this understanding affect our view of our ministry? [*w13* 7/15 6-7 pars. 10-13]

Regularly reading and meditating on the Bible and Christian publications will keep our faith strong

USE OF RESOURCES (10 min.)

Those taking the lead have shown that they are not sentimentally attached to material things. They are willing to move the world headquarters to Warwick, New York, because it will advance Kingdom interests

Question: How can we imitate that attitude in our personal circumstances?

Use of technology

The Governing Body is using technology in a variety of ways to speed up the publishing of Bibles and Bible literature into more than 600 languages. The Bible prophesied at Isaiah 60:1 that we would use the valuable resources of the nations to expand true worship, and this prophecy is being fulfilled today. At the same time, they do not fall into the trap of adopting every new piece of technology

Question: How can you imitate them in the balanced use of technology?

BENEFIT FROM IMITATING THEIR FAITH (1 min.)

By following the lead of the faithful and discreet slave, we are getting ready for the final scene of this system of things, the approaching great tribulation

May we continue to be obedient to those who are taking the lead

The Governing Body loves you dear pioneers and appreciates all your works of love