

CIRCUIT OVERSEER MEETS WITH PIONEERS
PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER 2011 THROUGH FEBRUARY 2012

Note to the circuit overseer:

The meeting should be upbuilding and encouraging. Where appropriate, include positive comments from the elders about the pioneers' impact on the territory and the spirit of the congregation. Allow the pioneers to comment freely on the questions posed, and help them to make personal application where appropriate. Auxiliary pioneers are invited to be present for the first 30 minutes

Theme: "Do Not Put Out the Fire of the Spirit" (1Th 5:19)

PREACHING THE GOOD NEWS IS THE GREATEST OF ALL PRIVILEGES (3 min.)

Jesus Christ appreciated that preaching God's Kingdom was the greatest privilege that could be extended to anyone (Mr 1:38; Lu 4:43)

The driving force of God's spirit moved Jesus to increase the intensity of his preaching and teaching as the end of his earthly ministry drew to a close

Likewise, today, Jehovah is using his powerful holy spirit to accomplish the global preaching work (Zec 4:6)

Paul admonished the Thessalonians: "Do not put out the fire of the spirit" (1Th 5:19)

In view of the importance and the privilege of this work, pioneers need to stay motivated. To keep the fire of God's motivating spirit burning within them, pioneers want to display zeal, boldness, and endurance in their ministry (*w00 7/1 10 par. 9*)

PREACH WITH ZEAL (15 min.)

Question: How would you define zeal?

In the Bible, the terms "zeal" and "jealousy" are closely related. *Insight on the Scriptures*, Volume 1, page 1258, under the heading "Jealous, Jealousy," states: "According to Biblical usage, 'jealousy' may be a positive or a negative quality or emotion. (Pr 14:30; Zec 1:14)

The Hebrew noun *qin-'ah* variously means 'insistence on exclusive devotion; toleration of no rivalry; zeal; ardor; jealousy [righteous or sinful]; envying.' The Greek *ze'los* has a similar meaning.—2Co 11:2; 12:20"

Question: What can weaken a pioneer's zeal for the ministry? [A failure to do meaningful personal study, lack of response in the territory, opposition from family members, health issues, everyday pressures of this system, not keeping personal affairs in proper perspective, and so forth (2Ti 3:1-5; 1Jo 2:15-17; *w09 8/15 28-29*)]

Questions: How can a pioneer maintain his zeal? [Maintain good study habits, read the Bible daily and meditate, pray for Jehovah's holy spirit. (*w10 4/15 25-28*) It is good to make a self-examination from time to time. Jehu had a reputation for driving his chariot furiously—an evidence of his zeal to accomplish his task. (2Ki 9:20) Jesus, the Greater Jehu, is described as being 'eaten up' with zeal. (Ps 69:9)] How will displaying this kind of zeal have a positive effect on a pioneer's outlook toward the ministry? [He views the ministry as a special privilege. His love for the truths being taught will increase, and his enthusiasm is enhanced because of finding greater joy by being effective in the ministry (*w09 1/15 5-6 pars. 12-14*)]

Question: How does a pioneer's zeal benefit the congregation?

PREACH WITH BOLDNESS (12 min.)

Question: How would you define boldness?

The Watchtower, February 15, 2010, page 6, paragraph 4, states: "The Greek word translated 'boldness' means 'outspokenness, frankness, plainness.' That word conveys the idea of 'courage, confidence, . . . fearlessness.' Boldness does not mean bluntness or rudeness (Col. 4:6)"

Questions: Why is there a need for boldness today? (*w10* 2/15 5-6 par. 3) [Read Acts 4:29, 31.] What did the disciples do when they were threatened and ordered to stop preaching? How was their prayer answered? [Read 1 Thessalonians 2:2.] Where did Paul's boldness come from? How can you imitate Paul in this regard? [Confidently ask Jehovah for his spirit to help muster up the needed boldness and courage if certain aspects of the ministry are intimidating, such as street witnessing, preaching informally, telephone witnessing, or business territory.] How will having 'courage, confidence, and fearlessness,' help keep the "fire" in your pioneer ministry? [Increased boldness in witnessing produces positive results. Our attitude is improved because we appreciate more fully the importance and benefit of our work. Boldness will fortify our zeal because we have a greater awareness of the urgency of the preaching work]

Question: What positive effect will a pioneer's boldness have on the congregation?

[Express appreciation to the auxiliary pioneers for their attendance at the first half of the meeting and for their efforts in the field. Mention that the second half of the meeting will be conducted with only the regular and special pioneers (if any) present]

PREACH WITH ENDURANCE (22 min.)

Besides manifesting zeal and boldness, being in the forefront of the preaching work during the final days of this system of things also requires pioneers to have the kind of endurance that Jesus displayed. He never gave in to the enemy (Heb 12:2)

Question: What does it mean to endure?

"The Greek verb for 'endure' (*hypo-me'no*) literally means 'remain or stay under.' It occurs 17 times in the Bible. According to lexicographers W. Bauer, F. W. Gingrich, and F. Danker, it means 'remain instead of fleeing . . . , stand one's ground, hold out.' The Greek noun for 'endurance' (*hypo-mo-ne'*) occurs over 30 times." (*w93* 9/15 9 par. 3) Jesus set the perfect example of endurance (*cf* 66-75)

Endurance enables us to stand our ground, not lose hope in the face of obstacles or hardships. It looks beyond the present pain to the goal of everlasting life (Ro 8:25; Jas 1:12)

Question: What are some challenges to a pioneer's endurance? [Poor health, anxiety, peer pressure, economic uncertainty, the seeming delay of this system's end from our standpoint, apathy, and so forth (Job 2:7, 8; Hab 1:2; 1Pe 4:4)]

Questions: How have you overcome such challenges? What can help a pioneer to continue serving with endurance? [Read James 1:2-4 and Romans 5:3-5.] (*w10* 7/15 10 par. 13) What is the value of enduring trials? [Like Job, our lives are enriched. Our relationship with God is strengthened. Our joy is increased. It builds on our record of integrity. We receive Jehovah's blessings now and in the future. (Job 42:12, 13; Jas 5:11; Heb 10:36) We prove Satan a liar (Pr 27:11)]

Question: When someone is faced with a major issue that requires him to cease pioneering, does this mean he has not endured or he has failed Jehovah somehow? [Balance and reasonableness are needed. (Pr 11:2b; Ec 9:4; Php 4:5; Jas 3:17; 4:13-15; *w96* 5/15 29-31) Circumstances change. (Ec 9:11b) While not being hasty to relinquish the privilege of pioneering, there may be *legitimate factors* that will not permit one to continue in the pioneer ministry. (Pr 21:5) If so, do not feel that you are letting Jehovah down. Jehovah understands our circumstances and is reasonable with us. Read Psalm 103:14, Micah 6:8, and Matthew 11:28, 29. (*w05* 6/1 19 pars. 17-18) In time, circumstances may change and you may be able to pioneer again]

Question: How is the congregation encouraged by observing a pioneer's endurance? (1Th 1:2-7)

LOCAL NEEDS (5 min.)

CHERISH YOUR PRIVILEGE OF PREACHING ABOUT GOD’S KINGDOM (3 min.)

“Our greatest privilege in these pre-Armageddon days is to avail ourselves of the opportunity and to enter into [the preaching work] with heart and soul. So, enter it and stay with it we *will*, and that with contentment” (w48 8/15 251 par. 33)

Yes, placing the message of the truth in the hands of the people now is the greatest privilege ever given to Christians on earth since the days of the apostles

Knowing that you are privileged to be one of “God’s fellow workers” in the capacity of pioneering will help you maintain zeal, boldness, and endurance (1Co 3:6, 9; 2Co 4:1, 16)

This will strengthen you and encourage those around you not to give up (1Ti 4:16)

“Do not put out the fire of the spirit” (1Th 5:19)

By doing so, you will be happy, spiritually awake, and have Jehovah’s approval and blessing (Mt 16:27; Heb 6:10-12; 13:16)