

Sociedad Dominicana de los Testigos de Jehová



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CIRCUIT OVERSEER MEETS WITH ELDERS AND MINISTERIAL SERVANTS PROGRAM FROM SEPTEMBER 2010 THROUGH FEBRUARY 2011

Note to the circuit overseer:

Make a special effort to be encouraging to the appointed brothers. Give specific, warm commendation for the work they do. Any counsel needed should be offered lovingly. Assure them they have Jehovah's approval and the support of the branch office

Theme: 'Shepherd the Flock With Knowledge and Insight' (Jer 3:15)

INTRODUCTION (3 min.)

A shepherd is one who leads, feeds, and protects the sheep entrusted to his care. Jehovah is the Great Shepherd, and he likens his people to sheep

Jesus addressed his faithful disciples as his sheep because they were entrusted to him by his Father

He promised to provide "gifts in men" who would serve as shepherds to the congregation (Eph 4:8)

What qualities enhance the work of these spiritual shepherds? [Read Jeremiah 3:15]

How do spiritual shepherds gain knowledge and insight?

MAINTAIN YOUR OWN SPIRITUALITY (12 min.)

Shepherds of the flock must be ardent students of God's Word

Why is this so important? As we grow in our knowledge of Jehovah and improve in our relationship with him, we are better equipped to imitate his qualities in dealing with the sheep.

As a result, our ability to encourage, shepherd, and counsel is enhanced

In order to carry on as active servants of God, all need to have their joy and strength renewed from day to day by finding new or deeper aspects of the truth of God's Word

It is vital to make a conscious and constant effort to gain fresh insight into the truth so as to keep ourselves spiritually stimulated (w94 6/15 8)

Elders and ministerial servants need to be thoroughly acquainted with the Scriptures (2Ti 3:17)

This is accomplished by prayerfully reading and meditating on the Bible daily [Read Psalm 119:97]

Is God's Word your daily "concern"? Is Bible reading part of your daily schedule? Have you read the entire Bible more than once?

Question: Why is having a schedule for personal Bible study and meditation so important?

[It is essential in dealing with the needs of the brothers. Elders are expected to give sound Scriptural counsel and direction. Accurate knowledge of the Bible is the basis for this "healthful teaching" (2Ti 4:3)]

Elders and ministerial servants should set a good example in this regard (w99 11/1 9 par. 4)

SHEPHERD YOUR FAMILY WITH KNOWLEDGE AND INSIGHT (18 min.)

Elders and ministerial servants must be alert to the needs of each family member [Read 1 Timothy 3:4, 5, 12]

Questions: What can help family heads discern the spiritual condition of their family? [Does the family's conversation focus on spiritual or fleshly matters? (Mt 12:34b) Does their choice of music, entertainment, dress, and grooming reveal they are being influenced by the spirit of the world? (Eph 2:2) Do they spend unnecessary extended time on the Internet or using other electronic gadgets? Do they enjoy being involved in theocratic activities? (1Co 15:58) Are they pursuing spiritual goals?]

Appointed men have the responsibility to supervise their family's use of the Internet and communications technology. Some cautions regarding social networks can be found in the following issues of *Awake!* [Cite the following references for the brothers: g 10/08 7; g 4/08 30; g 3/08 30; g 3/07 5-6]

If a family member of an elder or ministerial servant becomes involved in serious wrongdoing because of his negligence in providing necessary supervision in these areas, his qualifications would be subject to review

Question: What opportunities do family heads have to shepherd their family members? [Allow the brothers to comment. Based on local needs, emphasize appropriate points from those listed below]

- Consider the daily text each day (Ac 17:11) [A variety of scriptures and subjects are considered that can prove helpful in shepherding the family]
- Pray together regularly (Col 4:2, 3) [Prayer draws family members close to Jehovah and to one another. When faced with problems affecting the family, seek Jehovah's guidance through prayer. To hear family heads humbly approach Jehovah for direction can make a profound impression. Thus, it is a part of shepherding the family (w05 1/1 26)]
- Work in the ministry with individual family members (Mt 24:14; 28:19, 20) [This association allows family heads to observe and lovingly address areas where improvement is needed (2Ti 2:15; w01 5/15 24-25)]
- Prepare for and participate in congregation meetings (Pr 15:28a; Heb 10:24, 25) [Preparing together for the meetings provides opportunity to shepherd the family. Sitting together at meetings, assemblies, and conventions helps family heads to make sure that all are listening and participating meaningfully (w01 5/15 23-24)]

[Highlight the value of a consistent Family Worship in building spirituality. Read Ezra 7:10] Ezra's example can help family heads shepherd with knowledge and insight during Family Worship. It is important to be well prepared. Consulting with your wife, if married, to determine the needs of the family will provide additional knowledge and insight (w02 7/1 20-22)

Questions: What challenges are some facing in establishing a regular Family Worship program? What suggestions do you brothers have to overcome these challenges?

SHEPHERD THE CONGREGATION WITH KNOWLEDGE AND INSIGHT (15 min.)

While much good can be accomplished in visiting with members of the congregation before and after meetings and while working with them in the field ministry, there are benefits to visiting publishers in their homes (w96 3/15 24-27) [Review the box on page 26 of the March 15, 1996, *Watchtower* while discussing the questions listed below]

[Read Mark 1:29-31 and Luke 10:38-42] Jesus visited his disciples in their homes

Question: How do elders benefit by visiting members of the congregation in their homes? [Insight is gained that may not be possible otherwise. Perhaps they are struggling to care for themselves in some way. This can be especially true of the elderly. Interaction between family members can be observed]

Question: How does the family benefit when elders make time to visit them in their homes? [Individuals may be more relaxed and better able to express themselves. They are drawn to elders who demonstrate such personal interest]

Question: Although preparation is necessary, why is it important to draw out and *listen* to those who are being shepherded? (Pr 17:27; Jas 1:19) [Careful listening allows the elders to gain knowledge and insight regarding the one being visited. It also allows elders to be flexible—adapting their comments and use of the Scriptures to specific needs]

Questions: How could an elder prepare with a ministerial servant before making a shepherding visit? How could the shepherding visit be used as a valuable tool for training ministerial servants? (w06 5/1 24)

LOCAL NEEDS (9 min.)

CONCLUSION (3 min.)

The knowledge and insight that Jehovah provides are to be cherished (Ps 32:8)

Continue to maintain your own spirituality and to shepherd your family and the congregation

Remember Jesus' words at John 21:15 [Read]

Enjoy abundant blessings now and forever as you 'shepherd the flock with knowledge and insight' (Jer 3:15)

[At this point, the ministerial servants should be dismissed, and the following section should be discussed with the body of elders only. Thereafter, consider with the elders other necessary matters needing attention]

CAUTION REGARDING DISPOSAL OF NEEDLES (1 min.)

From time to time, reports are received of brothers having received a "finger prick" from needles and lancets (sometimes called "sharps") that have been disposed of in trash receptacles at conventions, assemblies, and congregation meetings. These objects have likely been used by those who inject themselves with medication. However, because of the potential for injury, such needles should not be disposed of at theocratic events. If you are aware of someone in the congregation who uses needles for medical reasons, the above reminder should be kindly and discreetly shared with them. **Please note that no announcement regarding this matter should be made to the congregation**