

CIRCUIT OVERSEER MEETS WITH ELDERS AND MINISTERIAL SERVANTS PROGRAM FROM MARCH 2013 THROUGH AUGUST 2013

Note to the circuit overseer:

Warmly express appreciation for all that the appointed men are doing in caring for the needs of the congregation. Mention specific areas in which you have observed that the brothers are doing well. Stress to them the need to *encourage one another* and the sheep entrusted to their care. The tone of the meeting should be loving and positive (*tg* 21:11)

Theme: Encourage One Another All the More So as the Day Draws Near (Heb 10:25)

INTRODUCTION (5 min.)

Because of living in “critical times hard to deal with,” all servants of Jehovah need and benefit from encouragement (2Ti 3:1-5)

Satan well knows the negative effect that discouragement can have on a servant of God (Pr 24:10; *w90* 12/15 19 par. 18)

Jehovah is pleased when loving shepherds tenderly care for his sheep by providing much-needed encouragement (Pr 19:17; 1Pe 5:2-4)

All members of the congregation, especially appointed men, should be alert to opportunities to encourage all in the flock; that should include *appointed men encouraging one another* [Read Hebrews 10:25]

What is involved in giving encouragement?

Encouragement includes consolation, exhortation, and comfort; the Greek word literally means “a calling to one’s side” (*w95* 1/15 21 pars. 6-7)

To offer encouragement two things are required

First: Think about what to say so you can be specific

Second: Look for the opportunity to approach a person who deserves commendation or who needs to be built up (*w95* 1/15 23 par. 6)

What can we do as appointed men to encourage one another, our families, and our brothers?

APPOINTED MEN ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER (15 min.)

Jehovah looks for the good in humans, even though they are imperfect (1Ki 14:13; 2Ch 19:3; Ps 130:3, 4)

Jesus imitates his Father’s pattern of focusing on the good in people (Mt 8:10; Joh 1:47; 13:15)

Appointed men should imitate the example set by Jehovah and Jesus

It is essential that we set the example in displaying genuine love among ourselves (Joh 13:35; 1Th 5:11)

We are not immune to the negative effects of this system

Fellow elders and ministerial servants are not mere passing acquaintances but are part of a beloved brotherhood of true friends whom we cherish and respect (Mr 10:29, 30; Joh 15:15)

Elders and ministerial servants imitate Jehovah’s qualities when they deal with one another in accord with godly wisdom [Read James 3:17, 18]

Question: What benefits result when this Scriptural counsel is applied? [Being reasonable and peaceable will help appointed men not to be quick to criticize a fellow appointed man but rather to consider his good qualities, such as his love for Jehovah and the congregation, his hard work in preparing parts, and his faithful service (Ps 103:14; Mt 7:1-5; Col 3:13; *w08* 3/15 25-28 pars. 1-15)]

Be *quick* to offer sincere encouragement, and “always pursue what is good toward one another” (1Th 5:15; Pr 25:11)

Question: How will this strengthen our bond of friendship? [We will view our brothers as “fellow workers for the kingdom of God” and “a strengthening aid” (Col 4:11)]

Be hospitable with one another (Ro 12:13)

The *New Jerusalem Bible* renders Romans 12:13 “look for opportunities to be hospitable”

Hospitality involves our outlook; it is an expression of genuine fondness, affection, and friendship (Pr 3:27)

We will develop genuine fellow feeling toward our brothers (1Pe 3:8)

Do not allow a difference of opinion to divide you (Col 3:13-15)

“In showing honor to one another take the lead” (Ro 12:10b; *w10* 10/15 16-20)

Question: What is involved in showing honor? [Avoid imposing personal views or opinions on others. Be guided by and base counsel on Bible principles (2Co 1:24; 2Ti 3:16, 17)]

Remembering that Christ is the Head of the Christian congregation, we will not be offended if a personal idea or opinion is not accepted (Php 2:3-5)

Respectfully listen to the concerns of fellow appointed brothers; be good communicators (Pr 15:22; Jas 1:19)

Always treat fellow appointed brothers the way you would like to be treated (Mt 7:12; *w08* 5/15 10-11 pars. 17-19)

When appointed men encourage one another and look for the good in one another, this will promote peace among themselves and the congregation, all to Jehovah’s glory

ENCOURAGE YOUR FAMILY (12 min.)

Appointed men who are family heads should set an example for those in their household, commending and encouraging them (1Ti 5:8)

Encourage your family by means of a regular and meaningful program for family worship (*km* 1/11 4-5 pars. 7-9)

Prepare to teach by keeping up with the latest spiritual “food at the proper time” (Mt 24:45; Ezr 7:10)

If you have access to the *jw.org* Web site, regularly review its updated content

Use the Family Worship evening as an opportunity to upbuild and commend, not counsel (Pr 24:3)

Ask your wife and children for their suggestions on what to consider (Pr 15:22)

The regularity of your weekly family worship reassures your family of your love and is essential to their survival (*w09* 10/15 29-31)

Encourage your family by having a regular share in the field ministry together

Question: How is your wife encouraged when you work in the ministry with her? [Strengthens your marriage bond; unites you in worship as a couple. (Ec 4:12) Helps her to feel cherished and secure, following your lead (Eph 5:28, 29)]

Question: How is working in the ministry with your children an encouragement to them? (*km* 1/11 7) [Opportunity to commend them for their participation and progress in the ministry. (Mt 3:17; 25:21, 23) Affords them the opportunity to imitate your personal example. Regularly working with them helps them to become skillful in the ministry (2Ti 2:15)]

Encourage your family to participate in congregation meetings (*w12* 4/15 31 par. 17)

Help your family appreciate that participation at meetings praises Jehovah (Ps 35:18; *km* 1/11 7 par. 3)

Assist your children to comment at all meetings in their own words, and commend them for their efforts

Encourage them to enroll in the Theocratic Ministry School

Practice the Kingdom songs together

Remind your family by word and example of how their attendance and participation at meetings and their share in the field ministry serves to strengthen themselves and others

ENCOURAGE OTHERS BY EFFECTIVE TEACHING (15 min.)

Effective teaching encourages others by strengthening their faith and their relationship with Jehovah

Question: What is involved in being an effective teacher? [Simplicity of statement, explaining unfamiliar terms, providing needed explanation, reaching the heart (*be* 226-229)]

It is important that appointed men work diligently to improve their teaching ability (1Ti 4:15, 16)

Question: What activities in the congregation require use of effective teaching methods? [Field ministry, Bible studies, congregation assignments, shepherding calls, family worship, training others]

Question: Where can we find instruction on how to improve in our teaching ability? [*Ministry School* book]

The following are important steps toward improving as a teacher

Strengthen your own relationship with Jehovah

Jesus had vast personal experience but never spoke of his own originality (Joh 12:49, 50)

Pray for Jehovah's help by means of his spirit (Lu 11:13)

Strive to focus attention on Jehovah, not on self (Mt 5:16)

Encourage the student or the audience to reason on Bible principles (Ro 12:2)

Jesus asked his listeners questions to help them reason (Mt 17:25; Lu 7:41-43; 10:29-36; cf 111-112 pars. 8-11)

Strive to reach the heart of listeners (*be* 59-60 pars. 1-3)

Help the student to know and love Jehovah as a person

Provide application (*be* 60 pars. 1-3)

Good teaching helps listeners understand why something is so and what they should do with that information

Do not make decisions for the listeners, but help them consider how to apply Bible principles

Set a good example as a teacher

Effective teaching will reach the heart, encourage others, and assist them to strengthen their relationship with Jehovah

LOCAL NEEDS (10 min.)

CONCLUSION (3 min.)

[Briefly review the three main points from this outline]

Rendering timely encouragement will (1) fortify those who face temptation, (2) lift the spirits of the depressed, and (3) invigorate those who are serving God faithfully

By encouraging others you will encourage yourself, contribute to your own happiness, and bring refreshment to the hearts of others (Mt 11:29; Ac 20:35)

Make it your personal goal to encourage one another all the more so as you see the day drawing near (Heb 10:25)

[**At this point, the ministerial servants should be dismissed.** Thereafter, consider with the elders the following information and any other necessary matters needing attention]

SUPPORTING THOSE WITH MEDICAL NEEDS (5 min.)

[Review the annual January letter to all bodies of elders on supporting those with medical needs.

Remind the elders that while the information sheet *How Parents Can Protect Their Children From Misuse of Blood* (S-55) contains helpful information for parents, the sheet itself should not be given to them]