

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



675 Red Mills Road Walkkill NY 12589-3292 Phone: (845) 306-1100

December 15, 2018

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS

Re: 2018 Annual Service Report

Dear Brothers:

We are pleased to share encouraging highlights from the 2018 service year report of Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide. The peak number of publishers was 8,579,909. Jehovah's people spent a total of 2,074,655,497 hours in the ministry, a 1.4 percent increase from last year. It is especially encouraging to note that 281,744 were baptized! This is evidence that Jehovah's people take seriously the commission to "make disciples." (Matt. 28:19) We were delighted to see a 1.5 percent increase in the number of regular pioneers, totaling 1,243,392! The worldwide Memorial attendance figure was 20,329,317. Other significant features of the service year report will soon be available on jw.org and in *JW Library*, *Watchtower ONLINE LIBRARY*, and *Watchtower Library*. These figures provide conclusive evidence of Jehovah's blessing on our work.—Isa. 60:22.

In June 2018, the United States hosted special preaching campaigns in Portuguese, Tagalog, and Vietnamese languages. Over 2,400 publishers from around the branch territory participated, which resulted in starting 1,674 new Bible studies. Progress was evident in other language fields, as the first Hawaiian, Hawai'i Pidgin, and Turkish congregations were formed and the first Pennsylvania German circuit assembly was held in the branch territory.

Additionally, we continue to see growth in other special forms of witnessing in the U.S. branch territory. For example, an additional six harbors were organized for cargo ship and cruise ship witnessing. This brings the total for harbor witnessing to 56 harbors. Special metropolitan public witnessing was implemented in six additional cities, expanding this program to preach in high-traffic areas to 20 locations. We rejoice to see thousands of trained, willing volunteers manning the literature display carts and following up on the interest cultivated.

Be assured that Jehovah values your faithful service and that he will continue to give you the necessary strength to "fully accomplish your ministry" in the coming year!—2 Tim. 4:5; Isa. 40:31.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

c: Circuit overseers

PS to coordinators of the bodies of elders:

Please arrange for this letter to be read to the congregation by the elder handling the part "Annual Service Report" during the midweek meeting the week of January 14, 2019. Thereafter, the letter should be posted on the information board for one month.

12/15/18-E Us