

Announcement

March 22, 2020

FOR THE ATTENTION OF ALL ELDERS

1. **Correspondence From the Branch Office:** If information for all elders or all congregations is urgent and cannot be held for inclusion in a monthly *Announcements and Reminders* (S-147), in most cases the information will now be provided as a dated announcement rather than as a letter. Beginning in April, the monthly *Announcements and Reminders* will be made available to elders in the “Letters” section of the “Documents” tab on jw.org.

2. **Memorial:** In organizing the Memorial, please keep in mind the alternative ways of conducting meetings outlined in the March 16, 2020, letter to all bodies of elders. Bible students and other interested persons may be included in arrangements for the Memorial and for congregation meetings. If possible, Memorial emblems should be available at each location. All should report their attendance, as well as the number of partakers, to the congregation secretary to tabulate and submit the combined attendance for the congregation.

3. **Meetings and Ministry:** If, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is not possible for publishers to share in the formal public ministry, the body of elders may decide to adjust the Apply Yourself to the Field Ministry section of the midweek meeting for local circumstances. If necessary, parts that include audience participation, such as Digging for Spiritual Gems, the Congregation Bible Study, and the *Watchtower* Study, can either be summarized or presented in a talk format.

4. **Use of Videoconferencing Tools:** A document entitled *Zoom Online Videoconferencing and Meetings* will soon be posted in the “Forms” section of the “Documents” tab on jw.org. Likewise, a brief video highlighting the benefits of using videoconferencing tools when we cannot meet in person for congregation meetings will soon be posted in the “Event Media” section of the “Documents” tab on jw.org in English.

FOR FOLLOW-THROUGH BY THE COORDINATOR OF THE BODY OF ELDERS

1. **Announcements for the Congregation:** Ensure that the announcements for the congregation are read at the next midweek meeting.

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March 22, 2020

FOR THE CONGREGATION

1. **Special Talk and Memorial:** Video recordings of the special talk and the Memorial discourse will be made available for *viewing by the public* on jw.org.
2. **Consideration for Pioneers and Field Missionaries:** The Governing Body understands that because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ministry of auxiliary pioneers, regular pioneers, special pioneers, and field missionaries may be affected significantly. Please be assured that the elders will take into account these unusual circumstances when reviewing the service activity of these individuals.