

WATCHTOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF NEW YORK, INC.

CABLE WATCHTOWER

25 COLUMBIA HEIGHTS, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201, U.S.A. PHONE (718) 625-3600

July 1, 1988

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS IN THE UNITED STATES

Dear Brothers:

We are writing to provide some guidelines in response to questions we have been receiving regarding reporting limited field service when busy with other important theocratic activities. We know that many are very busy with such work, and there is indeed much to be done.

With all that we must do, each of us needs to keep in focus that one of our primary theocratic activities is to share in the field service regularly, preaching the good news of the Kingdom. (Mark 13:10; Phil. 1:10) That is why this work is stressed in Our Kingdom Ministry and in other publications of the Society. In fact, we all want to have as full a share as possible in the field ministry.

Some of you have many additional responsibilities. You may serve on Hospital Visitation Committees, Regional Building Committees, or special committees. Elders and ministerial servants are sometimes requested to help with Kingdom Hall building, district convention work, construction work at Bethel, etc. We know this activity can affect the amount of time you spend in the field ministry. When the circuit overseer visits, he may inquire as to your field activity for certain months. How can this be handled? An arrangement is already in place to inform the secretary when pioneers are assigned district convention work and construction work at Bethel. However, it may be helpful to the circuit overseer when he visits, and be beneficial for other purposes, if the secretary will indicate in the "Remarks" column of the elder's or ministerial servant's Congregation's Publisher Record card (in the case of both pioneers and publishers) that he engaged in such additional theocratic activity during the particular month(s) involved. This can be done without indicating the actual number of hours devoted to such activity. So, when these brothers submit their reports at the end of the month, they can include on the back of the S-4 slip a brief note regarding these additional theocratic responsibilities they cared for as listed above.

Those helping with necessary theocratic activities as outlined above are doing essential work, and this should be taken into consideration. However, as mentioned, all of us should keep as busy as we can in the field service. We pray Jehovah will bless your efforts to balance all of these theocratic pursuits for the upbuilding of his people. We want you to know that we 'hold men of your sort dear.'--Phil. 2:29.

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS IN THE UNITED STATES

July 1, 1988

Page 2

We all want to keep in mind that whatever work we do "in the work of the Lord" is not in vain. (1 Cor. 15:58) Be assured of our prayers for Jehovah's continued blessing as you extend yourselves in behalf of the brothers. Please accept herewith a warm expression of our Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,

Watchtower B. V. Society

OF NEW YORK, INC.