



WATCH TOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY AND TREASURER
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TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS IN THE UNITED STATES

Dear Brothers:

Devoted servants of Jehovah God very much appreciate being able to enjoy association with fellow worshipers. Among the Israelites, this appreciation manifested itself in a sincere desire to be at the sanctuary. The writer of Psalm 84 set a fine example in wanting to be among God's faithful servants. (Ps. 84:1, 2) Similarly today, all of Jehovah's servants rejoice in meeting together for worship. The primary place where we enjoy fellowship and instruction is at the local Kingdom Hall. Do we not enjoy having such fine facilities in which to gather together?

The Society Kingdom Hall Fund was established in 1983 to accumulate funds for Kingdom Hall construction or enlargement of existing halls. As congregations received assistance and repaid what they borrowed into the fund, more funds would become available for other congregations to benefit from. Since the Society Kingdom Hall Fund was established in 1983, available records show that 3,819 congregations have been assisted to erect or remodel over 2,440 Kingdom Hall auditoriums. This has entailed the processing of over 2,174 applications for Kingdom Hall financing. As you can see, the Society and those volunteering to work with the Regional Building Committees have put forth a tremendous amount of effort to build Kingdom Halls, and Jehovah has blessed this effort.

The Fund was established with a modest rate of interest being charged so as to cover expenses involved in handling these matters and also to augment this fund. You will be interested to know that to make it easier for congregations to repay their loans the Society has made an adjustment in this arrangement. Effective October 1, 1999, the rate of interest applied to any Kingdom Hall financing in the United States was reduced to 3%. All new requests for assistance from the Society Kingdom Hall Fund will be at the new rate. For those congregations that currently make repayments, their payments will now be applied at the new rate.

Though the Society Kingdom Hall Fund incurs costs to administrate and inflation diminishes the purchasing power of the funds available, the Society is confident that the generous donations of the congregations and individuals will make up for any reduction in the amount of interest repaid to this fund. As we associate together with our brothers at the local Kingdom Hall, may all of us feel as the Psalmist said at Psalm 84:10 "For a day in your courtyards is better than a thousand elsewhere."

Please accept our warm love and greetings.

Sincerely,

Watch Tower B. & J. Society
OF PENNSYLVANIA