

WATCHTOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF NEW YORK, INC.

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January 1, 2001

TO THE CONGREGATION SERVICE COMMITTEES OF ALL ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

Re: Territory seldom worked

Dear Brothers:

Enclosed please find a letter regarding territory seldom worked. It should be read to the congregation at the first Service Meeting after its receipt, and then it should be posted on the information board. We appreciate your assistance in the past by providing qualified Kingdom proclaimers to serve in territory seldom worked. These publishers and pioneers have performed a valuable work and should be commended for their efforts. As you process this year's applications, we encourage you to continue recommending spiritually qualified individuals and to assist them in any way possible to make the assignment a success.

If a publisher wants to be the team captain of a group, provide him with copies of the enclosed Application for Territory Seldom Worked and information sheet entitled "Answers to Frequently Asked Questions for Team Captains Applying for Territory Seldom Worked." For those who wish to join a group from a different congregation, provide them with a copy of the application only. You may make extra copies of these items, as needed.

As you review completed applications from team captains, pay particular attention to Points 2-4 on the application. With regard to Point 2, assignments will not be given to a publisher to work alone, to groups composed entirely of single brothers and single sisters (married publishers who will not be accompanied by their mates are viewed as single), or to individuals who are presently experiencing difficulties in their lives. Especially where these difficulties involve problems in the family, the elders will want to exercise discretion when considering a publisher who will not be accompanied by his or her mate. It is best not to submit any applications for persons with such problems. Do not leave it to the Service Department's Territory Desk to inform them that they do not qualify. You should inform them.

In response to Point 3, the total number of persons joining any one group should be limited to about 20, including minor children of publishers. Additionally, two or more groups should not request the same assignment at the same time in order to work closely together.

Regarding Point 4, please review with these publishers and pioneers their need for adequate funds in order to provide for their lodging, food, and transportation. This point should be emphasized even if the congregations surrounding their assignment offer assistance. Also, please verify that they will have adequate transportation to complete their assignment.

Once the publishers or pioneers in your congregation receive an assignment, it would be good if one of you would meet with them to determine whether further assistance is needed. If the group will be assisting a congregation, make sure the team captain communicates with the presiding overseer of the congregation at the time the group receives the assignment. While a sister may be the team captain for a group, a qualified brother would take the lead in conducting meetings for field service. Members of your congregation who are part of one of these groups have the option of obtaining their literature or magazines through your congregation or, as a group, requesting such through the congregation of their team captain. If the literature and/or magazines are to be sent directly to the assignment instead of to your congregation, make sure the appropriate forms include only what these publishers are requesting. Please do not include publications requested for the congregation. Write across the top of the appropriate form for literature or magazines: "SPECIAL REQUEST FOR TERRITORY SELDOM WORKED." Attach a letter to the form, stating exactly where the literature or magazines are to be sent. Any packing list(s) that itemize what has been shipped should be given to the secretary.

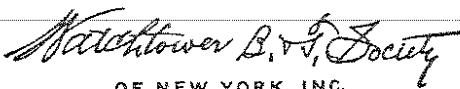
Members of the group who are motivated to contribute to the publishing and distribution of the literature, the building of branch facilities, the sending out of missionaries, and other expenses connected with the worldwide work should place their donations in any box marked "Contributions for the Society's Worldwide Work.—Matthew 24:14." Contributions received in the field for the worldwide work should also be put in these contribution boxes. Again, it will be appreciated by all concerned if you would help the group prepare for the assignment and remind the team captain of the need to submit the information requested by the Territory Desk at the conclusion of the assignment by the due date.

We have received letters of appreciation for the groups assigned to assist various congregations. If your congregation has many territories that have not been worked in a year and you would like such assistance, let your circuit overseer know when he visits your congregation.

If your congregation borders unassigned territory and some of your publishers wish to accompany groups in field service, they should make inquiry of the captain of the group assigned to the territory so that he can inform them whether additional assistance would be appropriate. Otherwise, the group assigned to cover unassigned territory is expected to fulfill their assignment as best they can with the publishers within their group.

Again, thank you for any assistance you can offer in this campaign. After you have read to the congregation the letter addressed to the congregation, it should be posted on the information board for one month along with the list of counties. Thereafter, it should be placed in the congregation file along with this letter addressed to the Congregation Service Committees.

Your brothers,


OF NEW YORK, INC.

Enclosures