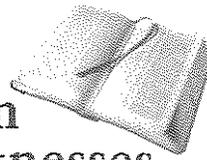


# Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



2821 Route 22, Patterson, NY 12563-2237 Phone: (845) 306-1100

September 17, 2001

## TO ALL CONGREGATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

Dear Brothers:

On Tuesday, September 11, stunning events unfolded in this country. Innocent people became the victims of terrorist attack! It is reported that thousands have lost their lives! Tragically, some of our brothers in New York City were affected. After contacting every circuit overseer and body of elders and endeavoring to check on the whereabouts of each one in our congregations, we are sad to report that 1 is confirmed dead and 13 are counted missing. Even though we understand how "time and unforeseen occurrence" befall us all, we grieve when we hear of these things. (Ecclesiastes. 9:11) However, we have the wonderful assurance of how "precious in the eyes of Jehovah is the death of his loyal ones."—Psalm 116:15.

Those who have loved ones who are lost or missing are in need of genuine comfort. Even those who were not directly affected by the recent tragedies have begun worrying about the security of their future. They wonder why these things happen. We can help them! Jesus taught us what to do in times of human distress. He went forth to "bind up the brokenhearted," to "comfort all the mourning ones," and to "tell the good news." (Isaiah 61:1, 2) Indeed, it is the good news of the Kingdom that brings real comfort. Now is the opportune time for all of us to really exert ourselves in sharing Bible truths with others.

We wish to encourage every publisher who possibly can to put forth a special effort in the ministry during the days and weeks ahead. Likely, you will find that many people are eager to talk about recent events. Just asking them "What do you think of the recent tragic events?" may start a conversation. Or we could simply state that our purpose in calling is to bring comfort to families in the wake of what happened on September 11. Give them comfort and hope. Show them from the Bible what Jehovah has promised for the future, after these "critical times hard to deal with" are gone. (2 Timothy 3:1) Offer to leave with people one or more of the following publications that most directly address their immediate concerns. Offer to study the Bible with them.

*Comfort for the Depressed* (Tract No. 20)

*Does God Really Care About Us?* brochure

May 22, 2001, *Awake!*, cover article "The New Look of Terrorism"

August 22, 2001, *Awake!*, with the cover article "Coping With Post-traumatic Stress"

We pray Jehovah's rich blessing on our united efforts to demonstrate our love for fellow humans by sharing the good news of God's Kingdom. Be assured of our warm Christian love.

Your brothers,

Christian Congregation of  
Jehovah's Witnesses

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P.S. to the Congregation Service Committee:

Please have this letter read at the first Service Meeting after it is received. It should also be read after the next *Watchtower* Study. Can additional meetings for field service be arranged to seize the opportunity to give a special witness during this time? If so, make this known when reading this letter to the congregation. Instructive meetings for field service should be prepared so practical suggestions can be given on how to approach people under these circumstances. All publishers are encouraged to search for extra editions of appropriate literature to use in the field ministry in the coming days. Moreover, we are happy to inform you that extra editions of the May 22 and August 22 issues of *Awake!* have been reprinted. You may contact the Magazine Department at Wallkill to place orders for extra magazines.