

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses

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



December 10, 2001

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

Dear Brothers:

We would like to inform you of the decision of the Governing Body to discontinue mail subscriptions to *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines in the United States, effective immediately upon receipt of this letter. In connection with subscriptions to the audiocassette editions of the magazines, further direction will be provided in the future.

This decision will bring the United States Branch in unity with all other branches around the world, where magazine subscriptions have already been discontinued for a number of years. In addition, the cost of mailing subscriptions in the United States is constantly increasing. This past year there was an 18% increase in mailing costs, and by mid-2002 another 10% increase is expected.

Current subscriptions to *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines will continue to be mailed only until they expire. Therefore, publishers that presently receive a subscription should allow their subscriptions to expire without renewing them and obtain their personal copies from the regular shipments that are sent to the congregation. When the congregation receives an expiring subscription slip (M-100) for a publisher, it would be a good time to increase their magazine request at the congregation accordingly so that no issues are missed. Subscribers can verify the date of their final subscription issue by checking any of their subscription magazine wrappers. The expiring issue information is located near the center of the wrapper. The secretary should work closely with the brother handling subscriptions in the congregation so as to assist the publishers to make the necessary adjustment in obtaining their personal copies of the magazines. The congregation's supply of magazines will now be shipped earlier and the brothers working with the magazines should ensure that they are made available to the publishers *immediately* upon receipt. To ensure that you do not inadvertently place your personal copy in the field, you may want to write your name on it as soon as you pick it up from the counter.

As expiring subscription slips are received for interested individuals in the territory, the slips should generally be given to the publisher who obtained the subscription. The publisher should call on the individual to explain that once the subscription expires the magazines will be delivered personally. The publisher can determine with the householder if their magazines can be placed at their door or in some other location if no one is at home. Please note that magazines should *not* be put into any mail receptacle or through a mail slot in the door for legal reasons. If someone else is at home when the call is made, there is no objection to leaving the issue(s) with them.

The only subscriptions that the United States Branch will maintain on file are for those individuals in the field who display genuine interest but who cannot be served by a magazine

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

December 10, 2001

Page 2

route through a congregation. For example, if a person in unassigned territory displays sincere interest but is too far from a congregation to be included on a magazine route, then a subscription may be submitted to be mailed to their address. Interested individuals living in a territory served by a congregation, however, should be put on a magazine route. These return visits will give publishers the opportunity to further cultivate interest shown by individuals and will serve as a stimulus to starting new home Bible studies. Publishers should make a serious effort to have magazines delivered regularly to interested ones on their magazine route. The service overseer can assist publishers in developing such routes.

The above arrangements apply to all languages of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* with the exception of subscriptions to the Braille editions, which are mailed as 'Free Matter for the Blind.' These subscriptions will continue to be sent as they have been in the past. If a publisher or interested person is receiving a subscription in any other language, an order can be placed through the congregation to have it sent with the congregation's magazine shipments.

We are confident that this further simplification will receive the full support of the congregations in the United States. May Jehovah bless you in your efforts to make the Kingdom message known to all we meet by skillfully using *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines.

We take this opportunity to share with you our warm Christian love and greetings.

Your brothers,

Christian Congregation of
Jehovah's Witnesses

P.S. to the presiding overseer: Please arrange to have this letter read at the next Service Meeting, as well as the next *Watchtower* Study. This letter should then be posted on the information board. Additional information on this subject will appear in a future issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry*.