

# Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses

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

Re: Territory seldom worked

Dear Brothers:

Last year we received applications from over eight hundred groups of zealous publishers who wanted to preach in territory seldom worked. Those publishers performed an excellent service and are to be commended for their efforts. As you process this year's applications, we encourage you to continue recommending spiritually qualified individuals and to assist these brothers and sisters in any way possible in order to make their assignment a success.

Enclosed you will find a letter regarding territory seldom worked that is to be read to the congregation at the first Service Meeting after its receipt. It should then be posted on the information board for one month. Thereafter, place it in the congregation file along with this letter.

We are also supplying you one copy each of the following: Application for Territory Seldom Worked, Counties With Unassigned Territory, and Frequently Asked Questions About Territory Seldom Worked. These originals should be kept on file. When a publisher would like to apply to serve as a team captain, provide him or her with one copy of each of these items. For those who wish to join a team captain's group in a different congregation, provide them with one copy of the application form only. You may make extra copies of these items as needed.

### **Approving Applications**

- Groups should be made up of at least 2 publishers and limited to about 20, including minor children of publishers. Assignments will not be given to a publisher to work alone. Two or more groups should not request the same assignment at the same time in order to work closely together.
- Do not submit an application for a group consisting solely of single brothers and single sisters. In this regard, a publisher traveling without his or her mate is considered single.
- Do not submit applications for persons currently experiencing difficulties in their lives. Especially where these difficulties involve problems in the family, you will want to exercise discretion when approving a publisher who will not be accompanied by his or her mate.
- Review with the applicants the need to consider carefully their financial situation in order to be sure that they will be able to care adequately for their own food, lodging, and

transportation when they receive an assignment. This should be emphasized even if the publishers have received offers of assistance from either individuals or congregations.

- If for any reason an applicant does not qualify for the work, you should kindly inform the publisher of the reasons why he or she is not being approved. Do not leave it to the Service Department's Territory Desk to inform the publisher that he or she does not qualify.
- While a sister may be the team captain for a group, a qualified brother would take the lead in conducting meetings for field service.

### **After a Group Receives an Assignment**

- Meet with the team captain to determine what further assistance can be given. If the team captain's group is given an assignment to assist a congregation, help the team captain to communicate immediately with that congregation's presiding overseer.
- The team captain should see to it that his group will have sufficient literature for the assignment. If extra literature is needed, he may request it through his congregation. He can either transport the literature to the assignment or make a special request through his congregation to have the literature sent to the assignment. If the literature and/or magazines are to be sent directly to the assignment, make sure the appropriate request forms include only what he is requesting for his group. 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.
- **After the group returns from their assignment, it would be appreciated if you would remind the team captain to submit his report to the Territory Desk by the due date. At times we have waited several months before receiving these reports.**

As a reminder, unassigned territory is cared for by the branch office and should not be worked without our permission. However, if your congregation borders unassigned territory, some of your publishers may wish to accompany the team captain's group. They should make inquiry of the team captain assigned to the territory so that he can inform them whether additional assistance would be appropriate. Otherwise, the team captain is expected to fulfill his assignment as best he can with the publishers in his group.

If your congregation has many territories that have not been worked for over a year and you would like to accept the assistance of a group to help you work the territory, please make this known to your circuit overseer the next time he serves your congregation.

The publishers in your congregation will appreciate your warm interest in their endeavors to expand their ministry to declare the good news. We thank you for your cooperation and due consideration of these matters.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation  
of Jehovah's Witnesses*