



WATCH TOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF BRITAIN

THE RIDGEWAY LONDON NW7 1RN

TELEPHONE 020 8906 2211

November 5, 2004

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Dear Brothers:

What a blessing it is to have zealous brothers and sisters serving with us as pioneers! Their work is truly “fine and beneficial to men.” (Titus 3:8) We know you appreciate the pioneers in your congregation and want to do whatever you can to help them to continue growing in knowledge and skill in teaching the truth to all sorts of men.—Col. 1:9, 10; 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Tim. 4:2.

Pioneer Service School: This year we held 20 schools in Britain and 571 students attended. During the 2005 service year, 32 schools will be held and 928 pioneers have been invited to attend, including 266 who have served faithfully for many years in full-time and special full-time service. They are thrilled with the prospect of attending the Pioneer Service School for a second time. They will add a rich flavour to the school. Some of you make your Kingdom Hall available for the school and arrange accommodation for the students. Such support is greatly appreciated.

Glowing words of gratitude are received from pioneers who attend the school. One sister said: “I have benefited from learning how to be more productive in the ministry.” In another letter a regular pioneer said: “The two weeks were fantastic as I have never been able to spend 10 whole days just looking after my spirituality.” Another regular pioneer wrote: “It has strengthened my resolve to make Jehovah’s heart glad and reaffirmed my dedication.” How can the elders keep this spirit alive?

Please review this letter at your next elders’ meeting. Discuss ways the body can give good support to your pioneers. Some pioneers are becoming discouraged and may be contemplating discontinuing their pioneer service. Skyrocketing fuel prices, growing apathy in the territory, poor health, and other problems make it more difficult for some to meet the challenges of pioneering. As shepherds and overseers of the flock, you are often hard-pressed to take care of all your Christian responsibilities. However, it means much to the pioneers when the elders take a few minutes to enquire sincerely about their welfare and offer practical assistance.

Pioneers Assist Others programme: The Pioneers Assist Others programme was instituted in January 1998. Over the six years the arrangement has been in existence, what you have done to coordinate the programme is appreciated by the branch office.

You will be encouraged to hear some fine experiences reported from those who have shared in the Pioneers Assist Others arrangement. For example, one sister wrote: “I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for the Pioneers Assist Others programme. It has helped me build confidence in the field ministry.” Another sister said: “This programme has helped me very much. I am very happy and satisfied in a spiritual sense because I am sharing in the field service activity with more regularity.” This is just a sampling of the many letters that have

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

November 5, 2004

Page 2

been received. Jehovah has blessed this arrangement and we request that you please do what you can to support the Pioneers Assist Others programme.

Are too few publishers able to participate in the arrangement? Pioneers can still share with others how they personally benefited from what they have learned from the Pioneer Service School or from their years as a regular pioneer. Encourage them to invite publishers to work with them in the field service for an hour or so or to accompany them on a Bible study or return visit. Much can be accomplished as they show personal interest in other publishers and take the initiative to work with them. All will benefit from such an interchange of encouragement.—Rom. 1:11, 12.

Learning another language: Pioneer service can be a stepping-stone to other avenues of full-time service. Many pioneers have learned another language. Some have transferred to a foreign-language congregation. Some pioneers have learned Albanian, Chinese, Persian, Portuguese, Russian, Sign Language, Urdu, Welsh, and other languages, and their efforts to expand their ministry into foreign-language fields have been richly blessed.

At the conclusion of a Sign Language class, the students wrote this to the branch office: “Over the past six months, Jehovah has proved to be the Great Refiner. (Zech. 13:9) Much has been accomplished during this time in preparing us for this newly ripened field. We not only have been learning a new language and a new culture but also have learned many effective ways to spread the good news so that all may come to know our Great God Jehovah. Our territory is already bearing fruit. Deaf Bible students regularly visit our meetings.”

One Russian language class was thrilled to be able to give simple presentations and arrange for return visits after the first day. Another class related: “At the beginning of the course, many of us did not even know the alphabet. However, there has been amazing progress in the first four months. Most of us can now read, write, give presentations in the ministry, comment at meetings, and have parts on the Theocratic Ministry School. The brothers can conduct meetings and represent the congregation in prayer.”

If you are aware of pioneers in your congregation who have the circumstances and the desire to learn another language and to concentrate their efforts on a particular foreign-speaking territory in your area with the goal of supporting a foreign-language group and eventually a congregation in that language, speak with your circuit overseer. Language classes have been arranged by the branch office where there is a sizeable population that does not speak English and where some have shown interest in the truth.

May Jehovah bless all your labours of love in behalf of the pioneers and all the rest of the brothers under your care. We send with this letter a warm expression of our Christian love and best wishes.—2 Cor. 13:14.

Your brothers,

Watch Tower B. & J. Society
OF BRITAIN