

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



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February 15, 2005

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Dear Brothers:

It is heartwarming to observe first hand the fulfillment of the Psalmist's words at Psalm 110:3 where he noted: "Your people will offer themselves willingly on the day of your military force." Truly, the congregations in Ghana are a wonderful example of this willing spirit. We commend you for the cooperation and assistance you have provided in the construction of Kingdom Halls in this country. Your efforts to generously contribute toward the construction of Kingdom Halls no doubt brings Jehovah's approval and rich blessing.

To date 186 Kingdom Halls have been completed since the beginning of the Kingdom Hall Construction Desk arrangement. Even at the current rate of over five completed Kingdom Halls per month, 460 congregations are still patiently waiting for a suitable Kingdom Hall. This letter is primarily directed to those of you who are waiting and/or have acquired land to build a Kingdom Hall.

Our desire is that all congregations have their own Kingdom Hall in the shortest possible time. To accomplish this all legal papers, loan applications, congregation resolutions, etc., must be sent to the Kingdom Hall Construction Office before a Kingdom Hall project can even be considered. While most have sent the necessary documents, some have not. We want to strongly emphasize that if any of your documents requested by the Kingdom Hall Construction Desk are missing, we cannot proceed with any planning concerning your project. Therefore, we ask you brothers to be faithful in promptly sending such documentation when requested.

Another area of concern is with congregations that currently own land. The Kingdom Hall Construction Desk is assisting to legalize and obtain the necessary permits for building a Kingdom Hall. Occasionally though, objections and obstructions have been encountered through court injunctions to stop our construction work. To avert such situations, we would like to encourage you to put up a temporary structure in one corner of the parcel of land, which can serve as the congregation meeting place before the start of the new building. If you cannot conduct all of your meetings there, at least one book study and field service groups could use the structure. This should be built with bamboo or timber and without a cement floor. This means that the structure should be of materials that would be easy to remove. When you do this you will be announcing your presence of possession of the land through occupation. At this stage it becomes easier to handle prospective litigants who may come forward without going through the courts of law. Also, onlookers will see that the land belongs to Jehovah's Witnesses.

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February 15, 2005

Page 2

If at any time before, during, or after a Kingdom Hall is built, a public official announces that some kind of legal action would be taken against the congregation, the elders, particularly the appointed trustees, should contact the legal section of the Kingdom Hall Construction Desk immediately. Any legal documents or papers should be available for immediate transmission to our branch office via FAX or courier. To receive prompt attention please send FAX to 021-7010854. Under NO circumstances is the local congregation to take any legal action on their own. This includes requesting the services of an attorney or pursuing the matter with legal officials.

If you own a Kingdom Hall along with additional property or have more than one piece of land, we normally expect the congregation to sell that property so that the Kingdom Hall loan can be reduced and the funds made available to build other Kingdom Halls. When this occurs, we appreciate it when the congregation cooperates by actively finding a buyer for the property. This will ensure that we get the most out of the dedicated funds we have for our use.

We thank you for the fine efforts you are making in support of the Kingdom Hall Construction Desk. We look forward to your cooperation and assistance with the above matters. Please accept our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*