

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



Hse. No. J348/4 - Tema Beach Road - Nungua, Accra
P. O. Box GP 760, Accra, Ghana Tel. No.: (0302) 712456-8; 7010110 Fax: (0302) 712454

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TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Re: Public Talk Guest Speakers

Dear Brothers:

Over the years the congregations have greatly benefited from the arrangement of having public talks delivered by guest speakers from other congregations. We are pleased to provide some suggestions on how this can be done.

If a congregation wishes to invite speakers from another congregation to deliver public talks, the talk coordinator of the target congregation may be contacted, requesting a listing of all qualified public speakers and the talks they have prepared. (The talk coordinator could be an elder other than the presiding overseer where circumstances permit. Working under the direction of the assigned elder, a ministerial servant can assist in the scheduling of public talks.) Congregations may be contacted in various ways, such as by letter, phone, or when meeting at a circuit assembly, a special assembly day program, and so forth. Some ministerial servants may be included if they have been used to give full public talks in their own congregation and if the local elders feel that their teaching ability is of an acceptable standard. From this listing, the talk coordinator may then consult with other elders and schedule talks that will be most beneficial for the congregation. (*ks91* pp. 42, 43; *od* p. 64, par. 1) The congregation may also wish to request a specific elder to come and deliver a talk and that could be done. Whatever the case, it is generally best that the invitation be extended to the speaker through the talk coordinator of his congregation. The talk coordinator will then follow with finalizing arrangements for the outline to be presented and the date of the talk. It would not be necessary for a congregation to assign a visiting speaker an outline of a talk he has not given before, when he is invited to come to deliver a talk.

The elders should prayerfully review the abilities and the example of each elder who has been approved by the body of elders to give outgoing public talks. Public speakers who go to other congregations for speaking assignments should be effective, extemporaneous speakers. Since public talks will now only be 30 minutes long, they should be speakers who are able to stick to the main points, make good application of the material, and end their talks on time. They should be in a position to accept such assignments without this interfering with their family responsibilities and field service activity. It is suggested that those who go out as visiting speakers should be away from their own congregation no more than once a month.

The organization has provided the S-99 and S-99a forms to assist in making these arrangements, and all talk coordinators are encouraged to make good use of them. It would be good to encourage all public speakers in the congregation to review the material in *Pay Attention* book, pages 42-44 under "Teaching at the Public Meeting" to ensure that a good standard of teaching, with good application of up-to-date information, is presented at all times.

It is our prayer that this arrangement will ensure better quality public talks that will encourage and build up the congregations.—1 Tim. 4:16.

Please accept our warm Christian love and appreciation for your untiring efforts in behalf of the brothers.

Your brothers,

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