



WATCH TOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF BRITAIN

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SDA December 1, 2008

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Dear Brothers:

The year 2008 was very fruitful for Jehovah's people worldwide. Among the thrilling reports in the *2009 Yearbook* you will notice that 289,678 symbolized their dedication by water baptism. Certainly Jehovah is blessing us as he expressed to the nation of Israel, "And I will turn myself to you and make you fruitful and multiply you, and I will carry out my covenant with you."—Lev. 26:9.

However, Satan is not happy with the way Jehovah is blessing his people. We can expect him to use every means at his disposal to try to slow us down in our preaching, and to destroy the faith of God's people.

One area of concern is the vicious attack on the family unit. Jehovah has equipped elders to give assistance by providing the new publication "*Keep Yourselves in God's Love.*" (Heb. 13:20, 21) This book provides a wealth of information regarding marriage. The Governing Body has noted a trend in that some are violating Bible principles by having unnecessary association with disfellowshipped relatives. It is a very difficult challenge but how do you provide assistance? Rather than reading only one scripture and then expressing an opinion, we encourage elders to take the time to discuss what is stated on this subject in the appendix of the "*God's Love*" book. By emphasizing Scriptural principles, you will be able to give clear direction from Jehovah and the "faithful and discreet slave." (Matt. 24:45-47) Please use to the full this wonderful new tool to help Jehovah's precious sheep remain in his love.

Another source of attack is the misuse of the Internet. Much information has been published on this subject in recent years. For example, there was the letter to All Congregations, dated November 1, 2006. This letter addressed the many concerns voiced by elders and travelling overseers and provided helpful reminders and Scriptural direction. There are also excellent articles in the March 2007 and October 2008 issues of *Awake!*

Some well-meaning congregations are said to be setting up congregation websites. The Governing Body has asked us to remind you that they do not endorse any such websites that are not produced or organized under the oversight of the "faithful and discreet slave." (Please see the November 1997 issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry*, page 3; November 1999 issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry*, page 4, paragraph 18; September 2002 issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry*, page 8, paragraph 6; and September 2007 issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry*, page 3, "Question Box.")

You will have noticed that through *Our Kingdom Ministry* and assembly programmes, elders and ministerial servants are being urged to take the lead in presiding in a fine manner

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over their households. Think of the impact your good example will have on the congregation. We encourage you to set the lead in implementing this fine provision to devote an evening each week for family and personal study of God's Word. As elders fulfil their role, all in the congregation who imitate their example will reap many blessings.—Prov. 28:20; Heb. 13:7.

Finally, the Governing Body suggests that more effort be put forth to interest men in accepting a Bible study. When sisters find male interest they can arrange to call back with their husbands or other qualified brothers to cultivate the interest shown. Generally, when the head of the household accepts the truth it has a positive effect on other members of the family. An example is seen when Peter brought the truth to Cornelius. Cornelius had called together his relatives and intimate friends, who along with Cornelius received the holy spirit and were baptized. (Acts 10:24, 44, 47, 48) Think of the beneficial effect on the congregations if more men progressed and later qualified to serve as appointed men!

Please be assured that your hard work in advancing Kingdom interests and in caring for the flock of God is appreciated and does not go unnoticed by Jehovah. (Heb. 6:10) We encourage you to continue to put full trust in Jehovah as you lovingly and tenderly care for the needs of your Christian brothers and sisters, as well as all others "rightly disposed for everlasting life."—Acts 13:48.

Your brothers,

Watch Tower B. & J. Society
OF BRITAIN