



WATCH TOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF BRITAIN

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TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Dear Brothers:

We have received a letter from the Governing Body in which they provide further guidelines regarding the new meeting arrangements taking effect the week of December 29, 2008, as they pertain to congregations sponsoring foreign-language groups.

Some have asked whether a foreign-language group meeting in a secondary room in the Kingdom Hall should have its own opening song and prayer for the Congregation Bible Study, or if the whole congregation should sing and pray together in the primary language of the congregation before the other language group adjourns to another room for its Bible Study.

There are a number of advantages in having the secondary language group assemble in the auxiliary room to begin their study with song and prayer in the language of the group. Since in most congregations the music for the opening song would be heard in all parts of the building, those in the auxiliary room could sing to the same accompaniment from songbooks in their own language. In rare instances where the foreign language does not have in its edition of the songbook the same song as is being sung in the main auditorium, an alternate song may be selected and sung in the secondary room, provided it does not cause disturbance for those singing in the main auditorium. A brother in each auditorium could then say an opening prayer in the language of the audience. Then the Congregation Bible Study could commence without having to dismiss the foreign-language group from the main auditorium. At the conclusion of the Congregation Bible Study, the group may begin its Theocratic Ministry School if they are able to hold one. Otherwise they may become part of the main audience for the Theocratic Ministry School. All foreign-language groups will join with their host congregations for the Service Meeting and the closing song and prayer.

We trust the foregoing comments will be helpful. May Jehovah continue to bless your faithful service. Please be assured of our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,

Watch Tower B. & T. Society
OF BRITAIN