



WATCH TOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF BRITAIN

THE RIDGEWAY LONDON NW7 1RN

TELEPHONE 020 8906 2211

July 4, 2009

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS IN BRITAIN

Re: Foreign-language meetings

Dear Brothers:

We have received enquiries on how foreign-language meetings should be conducted in view of the adjusted schedule for congregation meetings that took effect beginning in 2009. The following direction should prove helpful in this regard.

Congregation Bible Study: Generally, one of the first meetings that a foreign-language group will hold each week is the Congregation Bible Study. In such cases, the group should gather for this meeting in another area of the Kingdom Hall, such as a secondary classroom. They should begin their study with song and prayer in the language of the group. Since in most congregations it is possible to hear the music for the opening song 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 song being sung in the main auditorium is not available in the foreign-language edition of the song book, it may be possible to turn off the sound from the main auditorium and 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. Foreign-language congregations and groups should follow the weekly meeting schedule for the Congregation Bible Study as outlined in the foreign-language edition of *Our Kingdom Ministry*.

Theocratic Ministry School: At the conclusion of the Congregation Bible Study, the group may begin its Theocratic Ministry School if they are able to hold one. If there is not a qualified brother available to present the Bible highlights, then the group may either join the main audience for that part and then return to the secondary location to present the student talks or they may simply remain in the secondary location and listen to the Bible highlights. Foreign-language congregations and groups should follow the weekly meeting schedule for the Theocratic Ministry School as outlined in the foreign-language edition of *Our Kingdom Ministry*.

Service Meeting: Foreign-language groups do not present the Service Meeting in the language of the group. Rather, all foreign-language groups should join with their host congregations for the Service Meeting, including the opening and closing songs and the closing prayer.

Generally, foreign-language congregations should follow the schedule for the Service Meeting as outlined in the foreign-language edition of *Our Kingdom Ministry*. However, there will be occasions when foreign-language congregations must adjust the Service Meeting schedule. For example, the foreign-language edition of *Our Kingdom Ministry* may carry an article that applies exclusively to the congregations serving under the translating branch

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office, such as an article regarding a special preaching campaign for that branch territory. In that case, the article should not be considered. The body of elders should select an appropriate part from the Service Meeting schedule in the Britain English edition of *Our Kingdom Ministry* for consideration. A summary of the article, not a word-for-word translation, could be presented.

The coordinator of the body of elders should examine the Britain English edition of *Our Kingdom Ministry* to determine whether it carries information that applies to all congregations in Britain. For example, the annual branch letter, articles dealing with district conventions in Britain, or certain announcements that affect all congregations in Britain should be considered at the Service Meeting. Perhaps the local needs part could be used to cover such direction, or it may be necessary to replace a part on the Service Meeting schedule in the foreign-language edition of *Our Kingdom Ministry* so as to present the specific material that applies to all congregations in Britain.

Service campaigns: Generally, foreign-language congregations and groups should follow the service campaign offers as they are outlined in the foreign-language edition of *Our Kingdom Ministry*.

Your cooperation is very much appreciated as Jehovah God gathers the desirable ones from all the language groups into his organization so that they can gain salvation. (Rom. 10:12-15) We send our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,

Watch Tower B. & J. Society
OF BRITAIN

cc: Travelling overseers

PS to the secretary:

This letter should be retained in the congregation permanent file of policy letters. You may wish to update the congregation copy of *Index to Letters—For Bodies of Elders* (S-22) at this time as well. Please make a note in the margin next to paragraph 16 in the August 2, 2008, letter to all bodies of elders that that paragraph has been updated by the July 4, 2009, letter to all bodies of elders in Britain.