

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



2821 Route 22, Patterson, NY 12563-2237 Phone: (845) 306-1100

November 6, 2010

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Dear Brothers:

What exciting times for Jehovah's people! As this old system comes to its end, we see multitudes gathering to Jehovah's table for the spiritual food that brings sure hope for survival into God's righteous new world. To care for this increase, the pioneer ranks continue to swell in further fulfillment of Psalm 110:3. We wish to warmly commend you for your efforts to encourage the pioneer spirit within your respective congregations. What can be done to further strengthen and encourage those who have made adjustments and sacrifices in their lives in order to enter the full-time ministry?

Promote the pioneer spirit: The pioneer spirit is manifested by a positive attitude toward the ministry and a zeal for fine works. (Titus 2:14) When the elders demonstrate their support for the pioneers in word and action, the pioneer spirit grows within the congregation. It is important to take the lead in displaying a zealous attitude toward the ministry, since your example speaks volumes and encourages the publishers to follow suit.—Heb. 13:7.

One effective way to promote the pioneer spirit in the congregation is by joining the pioneer ranks yourself if your circumstances allow. When elders, ministerial servants, and their family members make room for the privilege of regular or auxiliary pioneering, the entire congregation benefits. Some bodies of elders have made it a goal for as many as possible on the elder body to auxiliary pioneer at least once during the service year, perhaps during Memorial season, during vacation or holiday months, or during the circuit overseer's visit, thus stimulating further growth of the pioneer ranks within the congregation. Being regular each week in your support of congregational arrangements for service and making yourselves available to work along with the regular pioneers in the ministry on a regular basis also helps to strengthen the pioneer spirit. Never underestimate the effect that your example and words of encouragement can have. Be assured that Jehovah will bless your efforts.—Phil. 4:23.

Be ready to assist: At times, pioneers face challenges that may discourage them. As shepherds, prove yourselves ready to assist in practical ways. (Isa. 32:2) Please do not be quick to recommend that a pioneer discontinue his pioneer service. Be alert to take the initiative in offering assistance that will truly benefit those experiencing difficult circumstances. Remind the publishers of their privilege to assist regular pioneers with transportation expenses as they are able, especially during these economically hard times. Make good use of past annual letters and outlines that have been provided. Such material often contains suggestions for assisting pioneers who are facing bouts of discouragement or who find it difficult to meet their hour requirement on a consistent basis. (See the letter dated October 2, 2001, to all bodies of elders, in the congregation permanent file of policy letters.) It would be good for all elders to review these practical suggestions so as to be ready to assist those in need.—Prov. 17:17.

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We appreciate all that you do in building up the pioneer spirit, both in word and deed. As you continue to encourage those in full-time service to fully accomplish their ministry, may Jehovah bless your efforts in rendering loving assistance to them and to all those entrusted to your care. You can be assured that Jehovah will not forget your sacrifice.—Heb. 13:16.

We take this opportunity to convey our warm brotherly affection and best wishes.

Your brothers,
*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

cc: Traveling overseers

PS to coordinator of the body of elders:

Accompanying this letter is an outline for the December meeting with the regular pioneers, special pioneers, and any field missionaries serving in your congregation. The body of elders should choose two elders to conduct this meeting. These elders should endeavor to arrange a convenient time when all of the pioneers can be present. Encourage the elders to be well prepared so that the meeting is truly encouraging and beneficial. Other elders may attend if they wish.

Also accompanying this letter is the letter dated November 7, 2010, to all regular pioneers. Please arrange for sufficient good-quality copies of the letter to be distributed to each regular pioneer, special pioneer, and field missionary in the congregation. Letters may be photocopied or be printed from the *Letters* section of the *jw.org* Web site under the *Documents* tab.