

# Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



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

November 7, 2010

TO ALL REGULAR PIONEERS

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

What was it that motivated you to become a pioneer? Was it because your God-fearing parents encouraged you? Did a zealous pioneer study the Bible with you? Maybe you heard a talk at a convention or an assembly that motivated you to apply for this privilege of service. Perhaps you were affected by an article in *The Watchtower* or a part on the Service Meeting. Was it a traveling overseer who encouraged you? Whatever the case, your decision to become a pioneer was a good one.

**True happiness:** Pioneer service contributes to a life filled with joy and happiness. It is common for those outside the Christian congregation to build their life around the pursuit of things like material possessions, fame, and glory. However, as the millions of dedicated servants of Jehovah have learned from experience, doing Jehovah's will is what results in lasting joy and happiness. The pioneers' increased spiritual activity makes them an outstandingly joyful group. That is to be expected, because the Scriptures tell us that Jehovah is "the happy God." (1 Tim. 1:11) At 1 Timothy 6:15, Jesus is described as "the happy and only Potentate." In addition, Psalm 144:15 says: "Happy is the people whose God is Jehovah!" Having a good relationship with Jehovah results in happiness.

**Safeguarding our spirituality keeps us happy:** Like all valuable possessions, our joy and happiness must be protected. We must be determined to avoid degrading practices of this world, such as the viewing of pornography. (Job 31:1; Matt. 5:28; 2 Pet. 2:14) In harmony with clear Scriptural direction, we also abstain from watching violent movies, and we do not play or watch violent video games. (Ps. 11:5) We need to refrain from listening to debasing music that is characterized by obscene lyrics or driven by sex, violence, and rebellion. (Eph. 4:29; *g04* 4/22 p. 26) By following what God's Word and organization tell us, we will successfully maintain our joy and happiness.

**Bible reading, study, and meditation:** As you have seen from your own experience, great joy comes from understanding Scriptural truth. It is comparable to the satisfaction that comes from eating a delicious meal prepared by a skilled cook. The prophet Jeremiah used that comparison when he said: "Your words were found, and I proceeded to eat them; and your word becomes to me the exultation and the rejoicing of my heart; for your name has been called upon me." (Jer. 15:16) As Jesus foretold, "the faithful and discreet slave" would serve spiritual "food at the proper time." (Matt. 24:45; Luke 12:42) Like Jeremiah, we find great joy and satisfaction in studying and meditating upon the good spiritual food from God's Word skillfully prepared by the faithful slave.

Much like physical food must be eaten and properly digested in order for us to benefit, spiritual food must enter our minds and be meditated upon in order for us to assimilate the good things it has to offer. When reading the Bible, ask yourself, 'How does this affect my life? Does

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this call on me to make any adjustments to bring my attitude or actions into harmony with the expression of the divine will?" For example, when reading Philippians 2:14, "keep doing all things free from murmurings and arguments," search your heart to see if you are really conforming in this regard to the divine will. (w61 p. 473) Such meditation is purposeful and will help you to grow spiritually and find greater happiness in your pioneer service. One brother who regularly reads the Bible and meditates upon it said: "I feel that this is vital for my maintaining a close relationship with my Creator. Meditating on God's Word helps me to understand Jehovah's justice and his other qualities better and has been a source of incredible strength." (w00 10/1 p. 21) Daily Bible reading and meditation serve as a powerful protection against the unhappiness caused by the satanic propaganda that permeates this old world.—w01 1/15 pp. 6-7.

Your personal study and meditation can also result in joy to your brothers. How so? Consider the conversation recorded at Luke 24:13-35 that two of Jesus' disciples had with him. After discussing the deep things from God's Word and gaining a clear understanding of such things, they exclaimed: "Were not our hearts burning as he was speaking to us on the road, as he was fully opening up the Scriptures to us?" They were so excited that they hurried to Jerusalem to report these things to the brothers! Similarly, by sharing the good things you learned from your personal study of God's Word with your fellow pioneers and others in the congregation, they too will become excited about the spiritual food that nourished your joy and happiness.

**Stay busy:** Happiness is related to productive work. (John 5:17) For our work in the field service to produce the best results, we need to make good use of valuable time. You have probably heard some version of the statement: 'Instead of thinking about counting time, think about how to make time count.' To help others learn the truth, we need to talk to them. We properly give priority to the door-to-door ministry. However, if you find that you are spending a lot of time in the car waiting for others to return from a door or from a return visit, why not try to talk to passersby? What about doing street work? Or maybe you could do telephone witnessing while waiting for others. If you find that you are spending a lot of time without finding anyone at home during your door-to-door work, have you thought of doing evening witnessing when more people are home? Keeping accurate house-to-house records is particularly useful in ensuring that someone in every household receives a witness. Depending on where you live, public areas (such as streets, parks, parking lots, subway entrances, and bus stops) may be good places to find people. It is often possible to give a brief witness and to leave publications with people in such places. Others have had success in witnessing to people early in the morning outside of coffee shops or diners. Why not review recent articles in *Our Kingdom Ministry* on informal witnessing? You may think of other places and circumstances where you could preach and make your valuable time count.

We greatly appreciate the fine work you are doing in the field. May we all continue to imitate Jehovah, the God of love, by pressing forward in our ministry. (1 Cor. 13:7, 8) Please be assured of our warm brotherly affection.

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

cc: Traveling overseers