

TESTIGOS CRISTIANOS DE JEHOVÁ

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SE December 10, 2010

TO THE BODIES OF ELDERS OF THE FOREIGN-LANGUAGE CONGREGATIONS

Re.: Translation of the Meetings at the Kingdom Hall

Dear Brothers:

The increase we are experiencing in the number of foreign-language congregations is one evidence of Jehovah's blessing on the efforts of his people in this field.—1 Corinthians 3:6, 7.

Since the meetings are vital for the spiritual growth of people speaking a foreign language, some bodies of elders have inquired about the possibility of technically adapting the Kingdom Hall to provide for a simultaneous translation of the parts of the program that are presented in Spanish (for example, when a speaker who does not speak the language of the congregation or group presents a talk.) We would like to make the following observations.

Simultaneous translation requires remarkable ability on the part of the translator, which the majority of the brothers in foreign-language congregations or groups do not possess. It also calls for costly technological media. These are some of the reasons for which this approach is not recommended. We recommend instead the traditional method, in which the speaker makes a pause after a few short sentences and allows time for the translator to do his job. This kind of translation is easier for the interpreter, is more exact and helps those in the audience who are still trying to learn the language to make linguistic progress.

The book *Benefit from Theocratic School Education* on the box in page 22, under the theme "When your Talk is to Be Given Through an Interpreter" offers some suggestions. For example, it says that the speaker must 'reduce the talk by at least one third to allow for the interpretation. (Sign language is an exception, since it can be delivered almost simultaneously).' We encourage you to become acquainted with those suggestions. Applying them will surely contribute to the spiritual benefit of those attending the meetings.—1 Corinthians 14:9.

We pray for Jehovah's blessing on the efforts of his people to find 'those who are rightly disposed for everlasting life', and take this occasion to send our warm Christian love.—Acts 14:48.

Your brothers,

Testigos Cristianos de Jehová

Copy: Circuit overseers
Regional Building Committees