

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



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January 3, 2011

TO ALL ENGLISH CONGREGATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

Re: Territory seldom worked

Dear Brothers:

In Pennsylvania, after having been shown several scriptures, Christine said: "Could we please sit down? I have a lot of questions. I think I need a new religion that teaches from the Bible." In West Virginia, Charles said that he was a cancer survivor and that he had been waiting for Jehovah's Witnesses to come back for two years. Charles' wife had been so impressed when the Witnesses talked to her two years ago that she went to the hospital where Charles was undergoing treatment and told him about the visit. They had been waiting for someone to return. Charles took the *Bible Teach* book and was very insistent that someone come back. In Alabama, when a return visit was made, a woman related her astonishment at what she learned from the *Bible Teach* book. While she considered herself a religious person who went to church and regularly read the Bible, the things she learned in the *Bible Teach* book were things that she never knew were even in the Bible. She eagerly made another appointment to continue her Bible study. In Colorado, a woman told our sisters that she was expecting them. Her pastor had told his group the preceding night that the people coming to their doors are Jehovah's Witnesses and that because they are in town to share the gospel, they should be viewed as messengers of light. From that day on everywhere the Witnesses went, the townspeople waved or honked their horns when they saw them, including the sheriff. Many *Bible Teach* books were placed in that town.

Would you like to experience the joy that comes from sharing comfort from the Scriptures with those who do not receive a witness on a regular basis? If so, we would like to invite you to apply for and accept a preaching assignment in territory seldom worked. Along these lines, the following questions and answers will be of interest to you.

Q: What is territory seldom worked?

A: Territory seldom worked includes more than 280 counties or parts of counties that are not assigned to any English congregation. Almost two million people live in unassigned territory, and many of those areas were not completely worked last year. Territory seldom worked also includes the territory held by the more than 1,000 English congregations that are not able to work all their territory regularly.

Q: Who can apply for an assignment?

A: Any group composed of publishers in good standing can apply. The group must consist of at least 2 persons and no more than 20, including minor children.

Q: How does a group apply for an assignment?

A: The Congregation Service Committee will select from the group a qualified brother to serve as team captain. If the group consists solely of sisters, a qualified sister will be selected. The team captain will then be given the *Application for Territory Seldom Worked, Counties With Unassigned Territory*, and *Frequently Asked Questions About Territory Seldom Worked*.

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Q: What are the responsibilities of the team captain?

A: The team captain is responsible for coordinating group travel, for obtaining literature supplies for the group's use, for caring for related paperwork, and for communicating with any parties involved, including the branch office.

Q: Can publishers from other congregations join the team captain's group?

A: Yes. These publishers should ask their elders for the *Application for Territory Seldom Worked*.

Q: Where will the group be assigned?

A: A list of counties with unassigned territory has been made available. The group makes a selection from this list. Consideration will be given to the group's preferred selection if at all possible. If the group wishes to assist a congregation, this should be indicated by selecting the states to which they would be willing to travel, and the group will be assigned to a congregation within the distance that was designated on the application. However, a list of congregations needing assistance will not be provided.

Q: How are the dates for an assignment determined?

A: The territory-seldom-worked campaign begins on February 1, 2011, and ends on October 31, 2011. The dates for which the group is available for an assignment should be agreed upon by all in the group. An assignment as short as one day or as long as two consecutive months may be requested.

In New York, as the Witnesses approached a house, two dogs began running toward them. One of the Witnesses said a silent prayer, and the dogs stopped right in front of them. So the Witnesses proceeded to the door and rang the bell. When a man opened the door, he expressed surprise that the dogs had not barked at the strangers and had even escorted them to the door. He said: "Since you made it past the dogs, I'll listen even though I'm getting ready to leave." He had just retired from the military and was looking for a place to worship, but he had never heard of Jehovah's Witnesses. He accepted a Bible study. In Utah, a woman asked her visitors to come into her home but said that her son needed more help than she did because he had recently attempted suicide. She believed that the Witnesses could help her son better than she or her church could. When shown the *Bible Teach* book, the son picked the chapter "Where Are the Dead?" The study began right then and continued a few days later. In West Virginia, a house was found in an unexpectedly distant location. The householder related that she had been depressed with personal problems and that while reading the Bible that very morning, she had prayed out loud saying: "God, please help me." The woman could not believe that the sisters had showed up at her door; she said it was an answer to her prayer. After talking at length and discussing many comforting scriptures, the woman agreed to future visits and a Bible study.

We want to thank all of you who have preached in territory seldom worked. If you would like to accept this invitation for an assignment this year, take the matter to Jehovah in prayer. Remember, Jehovah will not "forget your work and the love you showed for his name."—Heb. 6:10.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

cc: Traveling overseers