



WATCH TOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF BRITAIN

THE RIDGEWAY LONDON NW7 1RN

TELEPHONE 020 8906 2211

SDH:SSM January 24, 2011

TO ALL CONGREGATION SERVICE COMMITTEES

Re: Applications for regular pioneering (S-205)

Dear Brothers:

How thrilling to see a new peak of 10,014 regular pioneers in Britain, during November 2010! No doubt, you are as pleased as we are to see the self-sacrificing spirit and zeal of so many full-time ministers in the Britain field.

To help us handle the increasing volume of applications, we are writing to ask for your assistance with the completion of the *Application for Regular Pioneer Service* (S-205). We find we regularly have to return, or write to bodies of elders about, many of the applications we receive. In view of this, please could we ask for your help in the following two areas:

Firstly, questions five to eight on the application form all need to be answered ‘Yes’ or ‘No’. ‘N/A’ is not acceptable since these questions concern serious matters, and we cannot approve an application unless we have a definitive answer to these questions.

Secondly, an applicant may be legally, but not Scripturally divorced from his or her Witness mate. Or a Witness couple may be separated, and one or both of them wish to regular pioneer. What should elders have in mind when determining whether this brother or sister qualifies? Do not be quick in granting an appointed privilege of service to individuals in such a situation. Rather, consider carefully the following factors: Who initiated the divorce or separation? What is his or her attitude toward their marriage and the possibility of reconciliation? What effort is the individual putting forth toward reconciliation? Would the congregation feel that his or her marital situation reflects poorly on the individual? Would granting him or her the privilege of pioneering add to an already existing unwholesome attitude regarding marriage in your congregation? (Rom. 14:13; 1 Cor. 10:23) If his or her mate or ex-mate is in another congregation, are you aware of how their marital break-up is viewed there? Whom do they say is responsible for their marital problems? Is the individual in your congregation well-reported on by the elders of the mate or ex-mate’s congregation?

In line with this, if you approve an *Application for Regular Pioneer Service* (S-205) for a publisher who is separated, or legally but not Scripturally divorced, please provide a covering letter. The letter should clearly explain the answers to the above questions. This will save considerable time and effort for both the Pioneer Desk and you as a service committee, since there should be no need for us to write back for the needed information.

We would like to thank you for your cooperation in this matter, as well as your loving support for the regular pioneers in your congregation. May Jehovah continue to bless your efforts to further the interests of his Kingdom.—2 Tim. 4:22.

Your brothers,

Watch Tower B. & J. Society
OF BRITAIN

PS to the secretary:

This letter should be retained in the congregation file with other letters related to pioneers.