



WATCH TOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF BRITAIN

THE RIDGEWAY LONDON NW7 1RN

TELEPHONE 020 8906 2211

SDH:SSM February 21, 2011

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Re: Regular pioneer activity in Britain

Dear Brothers:

This letter should be retained in the congregation's file with other correspondence related to pioneers and it replaces the letter dated SDH February 11, 2010, which should be removed from the file and destroyed.

The secretary and service overseer are reminded to meet together to *review the activity of all regular pioneers*. This is usually done at the end of February. This allows the elders to determine if some pioneers are having difficulty meeting the hour requirement for regular pioneers for the current service year. It also affords opportunity to provide practical assistance for some who may be having difficulties. The purpose of this letter is to remind the secretary and service overseer of the importance of following through on this direction. While writing we felt it would be good to take the opportunity to provide a few reminders to help with this meeting.

HOURLY REQUIREMENT: Page 114 of *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will* says: "You must be able to follow a practical schedule that will enable you to spend the required number of hours in field service." The hour requirement for regular pioneers should not be taken lightly. Please remember that unlike auxiliary pioneers, the hour requirement for regular pioneers is a *yearly requirement*. On average 840 hours for the service year will work out to 70 hours a month. However, you should keep in mind that each regular pioneer will have a different schedule. Some will have organized their affairs to spend more time in field ministry during the summer months. Secular employment, family responsibilities, and holidays will affect time spent in the field. Elders should not compare the activity of one pioneer with another. —Gal. 6:4.

On the other hand, are the pioneers lax regarding the regular pioneer hour requirement? Have they lost their self-discipline, joy, zeal, or urgency in the field? Are other activities consuming their time and energy? Are they self-sparing or somewhat disorganized? Do they need practical help? Do they have a schedule for the coming six months that allows them to reach their target of hours? Do not be quick to recommend their deletion. However, if pioneers have a *pattern* of not achieving the hour requirement it may be better for them to return to the publisher ranks, at least for a temporary period. Please see our letter to all bodies of elders dated October 2, 2001.

NEW PIONEERS: We were very pleased to have an all time peak of **701** commence full-time service on September 1, 2010. Do you have any in your congregation? These new pioneers particularly need encouragement and commendation. They need to be assisted to maintain their joy in full-time service and make this their career. Perhaps they require assistance with their schedule, how to balance their responsibilities or ways to be more

Re: Regular pioneer activity in Britain

SDH:SSM February 21, 2011

Page 2

productive in the field. Have you commended them for what they have achieved so far? Is their group overseer making a point of working with them? Are they keeping up with their Bible reading and personal study? Are they making the most of their Family Worship evening?

TEENAGERS: Throughout Britain we have **471** regular pioneers who are teenagers. Are you keeping a fatherly eye on their welfare? Please make a habit of asking the pioneer how he or she is doing. Does the pioneer have enough company? Is there sufficient territory? You may find it beneficial to show this young pioneer how to start a magazine route or how to adapt a presentation in order to present the truth through the eyes of a teenager talking to and showing respect for an adult. It would be good to speak to their group overseer and work through him in providing any necessary encouragement and support. You should view time spent with young pioneers as an investment that will pay dividends as these young ones grow in ability and maturity, adding strength to your congregation. Please review our letter to all bodies of elders dated ST February 10, 2005.

At your next quarterly elders' meeting it would be good for the secretary and service overseer to inform the body of elders how this review has gone. Please circulate this letter to the entire body of elders as caring for the regular pioneers is a responsibility that every elder shares as he looks after Jehovah's sheep.—Acts 20:28.

We are very pleased to see the continued outstanding growth in the pioneer ministry in Britain. In fact during the last five years we have had a 36 per cent increase in the number of regular pioneers. As elders you play a pivotal role in maintaining this momentum. In a survey that we carried out during a Pioneer Service School one teenage sister explained how elders were very influential on her decision to regular pioneer. They reminded her of her goal and encouraged her to pursue it. We are confident that you likewise speak positively to our young ones about the pioneer service and encourage them to set spiritual goals.

We take the opportunity of sending you our warm Christian love and best wishes as we serve together in furtherance of the good news.

Your brothers,

Watch Tower B. & J. Society
OF BRITAIN

cc: Travelling overseers