



WATCH TOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF BRITAIN

THE RIDGEWAY LONDON NW7 1RN

TELEPHONE 020 8906 2211

SDD August 10, 2011

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Re: When emergency situations arise

Dear Brothers:

Over the last few days there have been riots in many major cities of England. There has been looting, buildings have been burned down, people have been attacked and even some have been killed. Whilst these situations seem to have suddenly erupted, it should not surprise us as this is part of the sign of the end of this system.—2 Tim. 3:2, 3.

The Branch Committee has reviewed the situation and you will be pleased to know that no brother has been injured, as far as we are aware. Some have had narrow escapes from the riots and a few have lost their homes or businesses. In these cases, the local elders have responded immediately to the brothers' basic needs.

Some Kingdom Halls have been in areas of potential violence and, in a few exceptional cases, elders have decided it would be best to cancel a meeting. In other cases, to ensure the safety of those attending meetings, brothers have arranged for all to be taken home in private cars, rather than relying on public transport.

When emergency situations arise, what should you do? It is most important that consideration is given first to the preservation of life. Kingdom Halls and homes can be rebuilt and material things can be replaced. The safety of brothers must be a priority. When there is rioting, the situation can be very fluid and it is local elders who are in the best position to determine, minute by minute, the wisest course, always seeking Jehovah's guidance through prayer. If the Kingdom Hall is in a dangerous area or it would be hazardous for brothers to travel there, then local elders will have to decide what would be the wise course. If you decide it is too dangerous to meet at the Kingdom Hall, then you will want to consider whether the meeting could be held in private homes so the brothers do not miss the spiritual provisions from Jehovah.

In an emergency it would be helpful for elders to keep the travelling overseer informed so that he can ascertain the exact local situation and then he can get in touch with the branch office with the details. If help is needed, we will do whatever we can to assist and coordinate needed relief. If there are questions, the circuit overseer can submit these to us for our consideration. Please re-read our letter of July 6, 2006, regarding disaster preparedness.

In this time of the end we must expect sudden emergencies to arise. Each one will be different, but elders can strive to care for the brothers in these challenging circumstances. Meeting their needs spiritually and physically will build up the brotherhood and reflect Jehovah's outstanding quality of love. — 2 Ki. 6:15-17; Isa. 32:1, 2.

Your brothers,

Watch Tower B. & J. Society
OF BRITAIN