

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



2821 Route 22, Patterson, NY 12563-2237 Phone: (845) 306-1100

August 11, 2011

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES BRANCH TERRITORY

Re: Special meetings in connection with October 2011 zone visit

Dear Brothers:

On July 13, 2011, the Bethel family was excited to learn that a zone visit is scheduled for the United States branch during the month of October 2011. Brothers from several countries and members of the Governing Body will share in serving as zone overseers. This visit will no doubt be beneficial and upbuilding to the Bethel family and all of God's people in the United States branch territory.

Regarding the purpose of zone visits, the book *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will* says on pages 52 and 53: "Periodically, arrangements are made by the Governing Body to have qualified brothers visit each of the branches throughout the earth. Brothers serving in this capacity are known as zone overseers. Their primary work is to help the Branch Committee with problems or questions they may have in carrying on the preaching and disciple-making work. . . . [They are] especially interested in what is being accomplished in the field as far as the Kingdom preaching and other congregation activities are concerned."

In this connection, we are happy to let you know that during the time the zone visit takes place in the United States, two special meetings are planned for the evenings of Saturday, October 22, 2011, and Saturday, October 29, 2011. Each program will originate from Patterson Bethel and be broadcast to many areas of the branch territory. This will include 44 Assembly Halls and a few additional facilities. Most locations will receive the program via audio/video tie-in; however, due to technical limitations, a small number of locations will receive only an audio transmission. In addition to English, the program will also be simulcast in Spanish by an FM signal. Those wanting to hear the program in Spanish will need to bring an FM receiver and headphones. Those invited to attend the program will receive a nontransferable ticket. Only those with a ticket will be allowed admittance to the program.

Of what will the program consist? It will begin with a *Watchtower* summary. Next, a member of the United States Branch Committee will give a report highlighting the progress of the Kingdom work in our branch territory. Thereafter, one of the visiting zone overseers will give an upbuilding talk. To conclude this spiritually rich program, a member of the Governing Body will deliver the last talk of the evening. In all, the program will last approximately two and a half hours.

Who are invited to these special meetings? Our branch territory is blessed with over 1,150,000 publishers, so you can well appreciate that it will not be possible to invite everyone. In general, those invited will be elders and regular and special pioneers who have been serving as such since August 1, 2011, or before, along with their baptized mates. In some cases, those who are not elders or pioneers but who have been serving Jehovah for many years will also be invited. Even so, not all congregations in the United States branch territory will be privileged to send rep-

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representatives to these meetings. It is understandable that some will be disappointed, but we are just not able to accommodate all because of limited seating and facility availability. Nonetheless, we are confident that those in attendance will be encouraged. It is hoped that in the future we can invite some not receiving an invitation this time to attend other special meetings in connection with a zone visit.

Information on whether your congregation is invited to send representatives will be supplied to the body of elders in a separate letter. Those who receive an invitation but determine that they will be unable to attend the program should immediately return their tickets to the coordinator of the body of elders in their local congregation so that others may be invited.

We are sure that this arrangement will result in rich spiritual blessings for all. (Deut. 16:15) Please accept an expression of our warm Christian love and greetings.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

cc: Assembly Hall Committees
Traveling overseers

PS to coordinator of the body of elders:

Please arrange for this letter to be read to the congregation at the first Service Meeting after its receipt. Thereafter, it should be posted on the information board. If the congregation is attending a circuit event or a district convention this week, the letter should be read at the Service Meeting the following week.

Information on whether your congregation is invited to send representatives to these special meetings will be sent to your congregation's jw.org inbox (not to the inbox of a specific individual). The message should be visible to your local domain administrators.