

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses Congrégation chrétienne des Témoins de Jéhovah



PO Box/C. P. 4100, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 4Y4, Canada
Telephone/Téléphone: 905-873-4100 Fax/Télécopieur: 905-873-4554

September 5, 2011

TO THE BODIES OF ELDERS OF ALL SIGN-LANGUAGE CONGREGATIONS

Re: *Shepherding* textbook in ASL

Dear Brothers:

As previously announced, the *Shepherding* textbook is being made available in American Sign Language (ASL). It is now our pleasure to give you additional information and direction about this publication that is being provided through “the faithful and discreet slave” to help elders “shepherd the flock of God.”—Matt. 24:45; 1 Pet. 5:2.

In due course, copies of the *Shepherding* textbook in ASL will be sent in allotments to the mailing address of the coordinator of the body of elders for all sign-language congregations. The number of copies in each allotment will correspond to the number of elders officially appointed in each congregation. The coordinator of the body of elders will then distribute to each elder his copy of the *Shepherding* textbook in ASL. It is permissible for elders to have both a printed edition and a sign-language DVD edition of this textbook.

We would like to emphasize the importance of keeping all copies of the *Shepherding* textbook in ASL secured and confidential, both before and after they are distributed. These discs should not be left on tops of desks or in other places where they are easily accessible by family members or other individuals. The information is designed for use by **elders only**, and other individuals should not have any opportunity to view the publication. No copies are to be made of any part of this publication, nor should it be converted into any other electronic format. Files should not be extracted from the discs and stored on another device.

If an elder has moved away or if for some other reason you have extra copies of the *Shepherding* textbook in ASL, the coordinator of the body of elders should hand deliver these to the circuit overseer. He should not send them through the mail. If your circuit overseer is a considerable distance away, the coordinator of the body of elders may deliver the extra copies to the circuit overseer the next time he meets him in person. If for some reason you do not receive enough copies of the *Shepherding* textbook in ASL, the coordinator of the body of elders should contact the circuit overseer for assistance.

We rejoice along with you at seeing how Jehovah is feeding and caring for his sheep as he blesses the sign-language field with growth. (Jer. 23:3; Eze. 34:12) May his blessing continue upon your earnest efforts as he uses you to accomplish these ends. Please be assured of our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

cc: Bodies of elders of congregations sponsoring sign-language groups
Traveling overseers

9/5/11-E

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PS to bodies of elders of congregations sponsoring sign-language groups:

Since our records do not indicate how many elders in your congregation are involved in the sign-language group and will need the *Shepherding* textbook in ASL, the coordinator of the body of elders should communicate with the Shipping Department by e-mail to shippingcorrespondence@wtbts.ca and include "ShepherdingDVD" in the subject line. Please indicate the exact number of copies of the *Shepherding* textbook in ASL that are needed for elders who are officially appointed in your congregation. Include your congregation name and congregation number in the e-mail. Do not request extra DVDs for elders you may recommend in the future. You should e-mail this information to the Shipping Department within ten days of receipt of this letter. In the future, copies of this DVD should be obtained from your circuit overseer.

PS to traveling overseers:

The direction provided in chapter 16 of *Traveling Overseer Guidelines* regarding the printed *Shepherding* textbook also applies to the ASL edition of the *Shepherding* textbook.