

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



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September 22, 2011

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Re: Foreign-language follow-up

Dear Brothers:

Currently in the Canada branch territory there are 273 congregations and groups in some 33 foreign languages. In view of the need to give a more thorough witness in these language groups, we are interested in knowing the availability of qualified publishers who are fluent in a language other than English or French to help care for *Please Follow Up* (S-43) forms.

At the next Service Meeting, please make an announcement explaining that the branch office is interested in locating qualified *exemplary* publishers who are fluent in a language other than English or French. (Bodies of elders of non-English or non-French congregations should read the postscript of this letter before making the announcement. This search includes qualified publishers who are fluent in American Sign Language and Quebec Sign Language.) If such ones would like to participate in giving a witness to persons of interest who speak that foreign language, they can inform the secretary. The Congregation Service Committee must consider the publisher's spiritual qualifications, including his zeal for the ministry, his humility, and his ability to get along well with others. Further, he should be sufficiently conversant in the foreign language so as to teach someone Bible truth. Please let the publisher know that there is no guarantee that the branch office will request his assistance; nevertheless, our knowing about his availability is appreciated.

If the service committee approves the publisher, the secretary should complete the *Questionnaire on Publishers Conversant in a Foreign Language* (S-17). If a publisher speaks two or more foreign languages, please list his name under the separate language sections on the questionnaire. The questionnaire is available in the *Forms* section of the *Documents* tab on the jw.org Web site. **Please return the questionnaire by December 1, 2011.**

Please inform the publisher that the information on the questionnaire will be used when there is no nearby foreign-language congregation or group to care for *Please Follow Up* forms. The contact information of the coordinator of the body of elders of the bilingual publisher will be provided to the congregation sending in the S-43 form. Then the two congregations can work together in determining the extent of spiritual help the bilingual publisher can provide. Until it is possible to provide such assistance, the congregation sending in the S-43 form should continue visiting the person of interest to help him progress spiritually.

Good judgment will be needed. This arrangement of locating a bilingual publisher is only to supplement the efforts of the congregation that holds the territory where the person of interest lives. The local congregation, not the bilingual publisher, is primarily responsible for the spiritual needs of those in its assigned territory boundary. Please remember that the bilingual publisher may already be assisting with a number of follow-up calls and cannot give attention to additional

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requests. So, if there is no one to assist in handling the call, the local congregation should keep doing its best to care for the person's spiritual needs, including inviting such a one to congregation meetings since the Christian fellowship will be upbuilding and can help him to make further spiritual progress.—*km* 11/09 pp. 3-5; *od* pp. 104-105.

Additionally, the branch office receives considerable correspondence written in languages other than English or French. If the bilingual publisher is willing and able to translate such correspondence, check the appropriate box on the questionnaire. A publisher cannot count the time spent in translating the letter as field service time. We will make further inquiry about the ability of the publisher to translate correspondence in due course.

We look forward to Jehovah's rich blessing on our united efforts to preach Kingdom good news to peoples of all the nations. (Acts 15:14; Rev. 7:9, 10) We send our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

cc: Traveling overseers

PS to bodies of elders of foreign-language congregations:

We are only interested in knowing the availability of publishers serving in foreign-language congregations who are fluent in a language other than English, French, *or the language of the congregation.*