

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses

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



April 4, 2012

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Re: Answers to questions about preaching in the foreign-language field

Dear Brothers:

This letter provides clarification to the direction given in our letter dated December 4, 2009, to all bodies of elders.

How much territory should a foreign-language congregation or group endeavor to work? The elders should be modest in making this decision. They should direct the publishers and pioneers to focus on the areas where there is a high concentration of those who speak the language of the congregation or group. In addition, since new ones will need to be directed to the congregation in order to progress, areas within a reasonable traveling distance to the Kingdom Hall should receive the greatest attention. Once or twice a year, the elders may arrange to work more distant areas. The elders should direct the coverage of the territory so that the publishers and pioneers use their strength and valuable resources productively.—1 Cor. 9:26.

Can a foreign-language group engage in the preaching work outside the territory boundary of their sponsoring congregation? Yes. The service overseer of the sponsoring congregation would take the lead in contacting the service overseers of nearby congregations that have a large number in their territory who speak the language of the group. He should be modest in determining the number of congregations he will contact so that the group does not attempt to cover more territory than is reasonable. Good communication between the bodies of elders and the traveling overseer(s) involved will ensure that all language groups receive a fine witness.

May a foreign-language congregation or group request help to locate those who speak their language? Yes. When the congregation or group is ready to begin preaching in another area, the service overseer may contact the body of elders of the congregation there and request assistance. The body of elders would then make an announcement requesting the publishers to give the addresses of any who speak that language to the service overseer. He will pass any addresses he receives to the group or congregation requesting help.

When should the *Please Follow Up (S-43)* form be filled out? How is it submitted? The *Please Follow Up* form is used when a person who speaks a foreign language shows *definite interest*. This allows the interested person to receive immediate attention. The *Please Follow Up* form is also used when we meet a deaf person, even if we cannot determine whether he is interested. Submit the form to the congregation secretary. If he knows which congregation to send it to, he may promptly forward it to the elders of that congregation so that they can arrange to care for the interest. If the secretary cannot determine the congregation, he will forward the form to the branch office.—*km 5/11 p. 3*.

We look to Jehovah to bless our efforts to assist persons “out of all the languages of the nations” to hear the good news. (Zech. 8:23) Please accept an expression of our warm Christian love.

Your brothers,
*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

Re: Answers to questions about preaching in the foreign-language field

April 4, 2012

Page 2

cc: Traveling overseers

PS to secretary:

This letter should be retained in the congregation permanent file of policy letters. You may wish to update the congregation copy of *Index to Letters for Bodies of Elders* (S-22) at this time as well.