

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



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September 14, 2012

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Re: Service Meeting adjustments related to 2012 district convention program

Dear Brothers:

Please note that the Service Meeting scheduled for the week preceding your 2012 "Safeguard Your Heart!" District Convention should be adjusted to review counsel and reminders about attending the convention. We have enclosed these reminders. You may also review appropriate portions of the April 2012 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert. A month or two following your convention, a local needs part should be used to review convention points that the publishers have found to be *helpful in the field ministry*.

We will like to remind you that the campaign to distribute the 2012 district convention handbills will begin three weeks before your assigned district convention. Copies for distribution to the field can be handed out to the publishers a week or two before the campaign is to begin. Any who have more than they can distribute may share their surplus with others who run out. Kindly remind publishers that any invitations they do not distribute should be brought to the convention and used to witness informally at the convention city or as they travel to and from the convention.

We send our warm Christian love.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

cc: Traveling overseers

District Convention Reminders

■ **Program Times:** The program will begin at 9:20 a.m. all three days. When the introductory music is announced, all of us should be at our seats so that the program can begin in a dignified manner. The program will conclude at 4:55 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and at 3:40 p.m. on Sunday. All are encouraged to participate in the singing of all the songs, including the concluding songs for each day's program.

■ **Parking:** Unless a person is sick or there is some other emergency situation, it is always good to sit in an area where we can listen to the program, instead of sitting in a car where one can easily be distracted or there is the tendency to sleep. Sitting in the audience and listening to the talks is a way of showing appreciation for the fine spiritual provision from Jehovah. Since parking space is usually limited, carpooling should be done to the extent possible.

■ **Seat Saving:** Seats may be saved only for those traveling with you in the same vehicle or living with you in the same home.

■ **Noon Meal:** Please bring a lunch rather than leave the convention site to obtain a meal during the noon break. Large family-size picnic coolers and glass containers are not permitted in the convention facility.

■ **Releases:** God's Word admonishes us to 'let all our affairs take place with love.' (1 Cor. 16:14) When there is a release at the convention, love and consideration for others would restrain us from running, pushing or shoving so as to be first in line to obtain the release. Showing such restraint and patience is a sign of Christian maturity and demonstrates our brotherly love for one another.—John 13:35.

■ **Donations:** We can show our appreciation for the convention arrangements by making voluntary contributions to the worldwide work at our Kingdom Hall or at the convention. Any checks contributed at the convention should be made payable to "Watch Tower."

■ **Accidents and Emergencies:** If a medical emergency arises at the convention site, please contact a nearby attendant, who will immediately notify First Aid so that our qualified first-aid personnel on-site can assess the seriousness of the situation and render assistance.

■ **Cleanliness:** All delegates will be responsible to clean their seating area after eating. Since each convention site will have trash bins, please ensure that papers, food, water sachets, and any trash, are placed in the bins. Doing this will demonstrate that we are a clean people.

■ **Picture Taking:** If you take pictures during the sessions, please do not use a flash. Since we do not want to introduce personal commercial mat-

ters at theocratic gatherings, we would not like to take pictures for money. We would also not ask commercial photographers to come to the convention to take pictures of the brothers for money.—w84 7/1 p. 25; see also *Organized*, page 142, paragraph 3.

■ **Sitting Together as Families:** Parents should sit with their children during the programs rather than allow their children, including teenagers, to sit with groups of other young people. This way they can be encouraged to take notes during the program.

■ **Footwear:** Each year a number of injuries occur that are related to footwear. It is best to choose modest, well-fitting shoes that will allow one to walk safely on stairs, gratings, and so forth.

■ **Recording:** Recording devices should not be connected to the facility's electric or sound system and may only be used in a way that does not disturb others.

■ **Follow-Up Forms:** A *Please Follow Up* (S-43) form should be used to provide information regarding any who show interest as a result of our informal witnessing during the convention. Publishers should bring one or two follow-up forms to the convention. Completed forms may be submitted to the Book Room for handling or to your congregation secretary upon your return.—See the May 2011 *Our Kingdom Ministry*, page 3.

■ **Accommodations:** (1) If staying in rented facility, please do not have more people stay in your room than is allowed. (2) If staying in the home of others, show consideration by being clean, orderly and show appreciation for what is provided. (3) Brothers and sisters should not sleep in the same room unless they are one family. (4) Do not cook in rooms where cooking is not permitted. (5) For the sake of moral decency, there should be no open-air bathing. Makeshift bathrooms made out of mats or cloth should be used, where necessary. (6) As Christians, surely we will not abuse any provisions that are made available for guests to use. (7) Display the fruitage of the spirit in dealing with hotel staff or families that you stay with. (8) If a problem arises with your accommodation or hotel room, be sure to inform the Rooming Department while at the convention.

■ **Volunteer Service:** The happiness we gain from attending the convention will be even greater if we volunteer to assist with the necessary work involved. (Acts 20:35) Any who wish to do so should report to the Volunteer Service Department at the convention. Children under 16 years of age can also make a fine contribution by working under the direction of a parent or guardian or other adult approved by a parent or guardian. Of course, department overseers are expected to recruit a good number of volunteers before the convention begins.