

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



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January 2, 2013

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS

Re: International conventions in 2014

Dear Brothers:

We are pleased to announce that large international conventions will be held in various locations throughout the earth during the 2014 calendar year in addition to the normally scheduled district conventions. Specific locations will be announced later. You will also be happy to learn that the Governing Body is arranging to assist field missionaries, traveling overseers in foreign service, Bethelites in foreign service, international servants, and selected other special full-time servants in foreign service to return to their homeland at the time of these conventions. Those who qualify to be assisted will receive further information in the coming months. By 2014, five years will have passed since similar arrangements were made by the organization. The Governing Body is pleased to make this arrangement for these brothers and sisters who have willingly left homes, parents, and an accustomed way of life for the sake of the good news. (Mark 10:29, 30) Their attendance at conventions in 2014 will lead to an interchange of encouragement.—1 Thess. 5:11.

How can all congregations support this arrangement? One way is by contributing towards bringing these special full-time servants to their homeland during the convention season in 2014. Judging from past experience, sufficient funds will be available to cover the travel expenses if each congregation donates an average of 30Gp per publisher per month starting this month and continuing through May 2014. If the body of elders wishes to send a specified amount each month to the local branch office, a resolution will be passed for that purpose. Your personal donations may be placed in the contribution box labeled “Local Congregation Expenses.” Individuals wishing to contribute to this fund may also send a donation to the branch office indicating clearly that it is for the 2014 Convention Fund. The branch office will acknowledge these contributions in a manner similar to the way it acknowledges other donations. At the end of the 2014 convention season, any excess funds in the 2014 Convention Fund will be used for the worldwide work.

Those having family members or friends in foreign service should not send money to the branch office requesting that the funds be used to bring a certain individual home at the time of the 2014 conventions. As noted above, it is anticipated that contributions made to the 2014 Convention Fund will enable us to assist all those who qualify. However, if you would like to assist a family member or friend who is in foreign service with his travel expenses, and thus offset the amount of funds that he will need to request from the 2014 Convention Fund, you may do so. Please bear in mind, though, that in that case it will be your personal responsibility to arrange a way for your funds to reach him. The branch offices are not in a position to forward such funds to individuals. Also, rather than sending the money to such a brother as a surprise, we suggest that you first inform him that you wish to give him a gift and that you ask him how best to transfer the funds to him. Such private correspondence is best handled between you and the other party and not through the branch office. For several reasons, it is best not to send cash or checks through the mail to individuals serving in other lands. Please keep in mind that it is inappropriate for a person to solicit funds from others in the congregation to give as a gift to someone in special full-time service.

We are confident that you will be pleased to do what you can so that we can assist these faithful special full-time servants in foreign service to attend a convention in their homeland in 2014. (2 Cor. 8:14; 9:7) Please be assured of our very warm Christian love.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

cc: Traveling overseers

PS to body of elders:

This postscript should not be read to the congregation, and this letter should not be posted on the information board. It is recommended that you give your accounts servant a copy of this letter. Please follow these steps:

- (1) The secretary should check the *Congregation's Publisher Record* (S-21) cards and count the number of active publishers in the file. (Active publishers are all those who have reported some field service time within the past six months.)
- (2) At the next Service Meeting, the coordinator of the body of elders should arrange for this letter to be read to the congregation. He should also arrange for a resolution to be considered by the congregation authorizing the following amount to be sent from congregation funds each month through May 2014: 30Gp x (number of publishers).

If the body of elders feels that this would present a hardship on the congregation, please remit what you feel the brothers can do. If the congregation is in a position to contribute more, then each of the monthly amounts may be adjusted upward. If preferred, you may also send the entire amount all at one time. In this case, the formula would be 30Gp x (number of publishers) x 17 months.

- (3) After the resolution has been considered and approved by the congregation, it should be given to the accounts servant to add to the accounts records file. He should forward these amounts with your remittance to the branch office each month.
- (4) **Please also read this letter (but not the congregation resolution) at the first *Watchtower* Study after it is received** so that all will know of the arrangements to contribute to the 2014 Convention Fund. Additionally, if there is a need to do so during the coming months, the congregation can be reminded of this arrangement periodically during the Service Meeting so that funds will continue to be contributed in response to the approved resolution.

For the benefit of the accounts servant and those who audit the accounts records quarterly, the contributions to this fund will be considered as a congregation expense in the "Congregation Expenditures" section of the *Monthly Congregation Account Report* (S-30). Please record all 2014 Convention Fund donations on the *Contribution Remittance Form* (S-20-E Wa). In the space designated "Other contribution" write "2014 Convention Fund" and the amount. All contributions for this fund after May 2014 should be added to the contributions for the worldwide work and forwarded to the branch office in the usual manner. Please include in your congregation resolution a statement that after all transportation costs for those in special full-time service who qualify are covered, any surplus in the 2014 Convention Fund will be transferred to the worldwide work.