

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



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

July 31, 2013

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES BRANCH TERRITORY

Re: 2014/2015 international conventions

Dear Brothers:

We are pleased to inform you that several foreign international conventions are being planned for 2014/2015 in various parts of the world. All congregations in the United States branch territory are being invited to participate. The convention cities selected are as follows: Melbourne, Australia; London, England; Quito, Ecuador; Frankfurt, Germany; Athens, Greece; Seoul, Korea; Mexico City, Mexico; and Harare, Zimbabwe.

Arrangements for these international conventions are similar to what has been arranged during the past two years in conjunction with special conventions. Notably, the selected delegates will not be required to use a specific travel agency as has been the case in years past. The emphasis will be for the delegates to benefit, not only from the spiritual association during the three-day convention, but also to spend two or three additional days with the local brothers before or after the convention so “that there may be an interchange of encouragement among you, by each one through the other’s faith.” (Rom. 1:12) This might include sharing in the ministry with local brothers, being with them at evening gatherings, or visiting local points of interest together.

For those wishing to apply for one of the 2014/2015 international conventions, please note the following requirements. Members of the congregation 19 years of age (as of January 1, 2014) or older who serve as elders, as ministerial servants, or in some form of full-time service or exemplary publishers who have been baptized for 20 years or longer (as of January 1, 2014) may apply. (The exemplary baptized mates of such ones may apply as well.) Unbaptized minor children who are exemplary publishers between the ages of 12 (as of January 1, 2014) and 19 years and are still living at home will be permitted to accompany their baptized parent(s). Single persons may apply if they have prearranged a roommate of the same sex or if they agree to pay the single supplement price (individual upcharge) for a single occupancy hotel room. The branch offices involved will not be making special arrangements for two single delegates to share a room. All applicants should be in good health and not in need of the assistance of someone else nor be dependent on a wheelchair, an auxiliary oxygen supply, or similar health-related devices. Of course, all applicants should give attention to important factors such as their personal finances and family responsibilities.

After this meeting, the congregation secretary will be providing applications and instructions to interested ones who meet the aforementioned requirements. Only those who are definitely interested and anticipate being able to afford to attend one of these conventions should apply. The organization is kindly asking that only applicants who get selected as delegates make plans to attend one of these international conventions. Problems arise and matters get complicated for the organization when individuals who are not selected to attend make arrangements in connec-

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tion with these events. Please keep in mind that due to limitations at each convention city, only a limited number of applicants can be selected. Applications should be filled out and returned to the Congregation Service Committee as soon as possible, but no later than **August 31, 2013**.

Your full cooperation with these instructions is appreciated. We trust Jehovah's rich blessing will be upon all the arrangements in place for the 2014/2015 international conventions. Please accept an expression of our warm love and best wishes.

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

cc: Traveling overseers

PS to coordinator of the body of elders:

Please have this letter read to the congregation during your next Service Meeting and after your next *Watchtower* Study. Thereafter, a copy of this letter and a copy of the *Applicant Instructions* should be posted on the information board. The secretary should stay very much involved with these proceedings and continually remind potential applicants of the need to submit applications as soon as possible.