

# Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



The Ridgeway, London, NW7 1RN Telephone: 020 8906 2211

SSE:SSR June 25, 2014

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Re: Language classes

Dear Brothers:

Jehovah God has an earnest desire for people of all nationalities to hear the good news of the Kingdom. (Rev. 14:6, 7) To this end, we are writing to you about the opportunity to get involved in promoting language classes. As you may know, the Governing Body has provided training to hundreds of elders and ministerial servants throughout Britain and Ireland. We have written to all the circuit overseers, informing them of the trained brothers in their circuits, and reminding them of the procedure for setting up a language class.

Branch-sponsored language classes are always coordinated by the circuit overseer. Therefore we kindly request that congregations or individuals do not contact the branch regarding these classes, but direct any questions they have to their local circuit overseer. He is the one who makes a recommendation to the branch office and, if the class is approved, contacts local congregations and makes arrangements to suit the approved instructors and students. One body of elders will be asked to sponsor the class, allowing use of the Kingdom Hall and providing territory. The classes are normally held on Saturday mornings for approximately two hours, followed by ministry in the relevant language. The course runs for four months. Any regular pioneers enrolled are given an hour concession of up to 25 hours per month for preparing for and attending the classes. Of course, before the circuit overseer can recommend a class, he needs to know the potential in the field and the level of interest among the publishers, for a given language.

**Who can attend a language class and what are the benefits of attending?** Elders, ministerial servants, pioneers, and qualified publishers can attend a branch-approved language class. While there are a number of commercially available language courses, which publishers can use of their own initiative, the branch-sponsored accelerated language course has proved to be extremely effective in quickly enabling students to use their new language skills in the ministry. This often leads to rapid progress in the language, enabling these ones to join a congregation or group where their new skills can be used to the full.

**What can the elders do?** The circuit overseer will require feedback from bodies of elders about the potential in the other language fields. During his next visit, and periodically thereafter, the circuit overseer will request your feedback on the following points: Has there been a recent influx of people who speak a particular language? Are there certain areas that have well-known foreign-language communities? What initiatives can be taken to find out how many speak another language? What observations do your pioneers have on this matter? By feeding back this information to the circuit overseer, he can then build a clear picture of the potential in the foreign-language field, not only in your congregation territory, but in the entire circuit and beyond. (Prov. 24:6) This will better equip him to respond to the needs in the foreign-language field in an appropriate way. Your enthusiastic support and positive spirit are *key* elements that allow the direction of God's holy spirit to be clearly manifest.—Acts 16:6-10.

**If a language class is arranged in your area, what can you do?** Willing publishers who are eager to enrol in a language class need your support, commendation and encouragement. Can your body of elders actively support those who are doing their best to learn a different language?

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Can you give warm encouragement to motivate the pioneers and publishers in your congregation who are interested in serving where there is greater need in the foreign-language field? This can be done whether there is a language class proposed or not.

If you find even a small number of publishers who are interested in learning a foreign language, please speak to your circuit overseer during his next visit. He will then be in a position to assess the needs and potential throughout the entire circuit, and can decide whether to recommend a language class.

Very soon, Jehovah God will bring an end to our global preaching work. Until then, our preaching has the effect of ‘shaking the nations’ and bringing into God’s organization the “precious things of all the nations.” In the time that remains, may we do all we can to ensure that people of all nations are given an opportunity to respond to the “glorious good news.”—Hag. 2:7; 1 Tim. 1:11.

Please be assured of our deep appreciation and warm brotherly love for you.

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