

CIRCUIT OVERSEER MEETS WITH PIONEERS AND FIELD MISSIONARIES PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER 2013 THROUGH FEBRUARY 2014

Note to the circuit overseer:

The meeting should be upbuilding and encouraging. Where appropriate, include positive comments from the elders about the pioneers' impact on the territory and the spirit of the congregation. Allow the pioneers to comment freely on the questions posed, and help them to make personal application where appropriate. Those auxiliary pioneering during the month that the circuit overseer visits the congregation are invited to be present for the entire meeting (See letter dated January 21, 2013, to all congregations)

Theme: "What Is Looked for in Stewards Is for a Man to be Found Faithful" (1Co 4:2)

ALL CHRISTIANS ARE STEWARDS (3 min.)

In his undeserved kindness, God has imparted to all Christians gifts, assets, abilities, and talents that we are obligated to use to benefit fellow believers and others (1Pe 4:10)

In this sense, all who serve God are stewards (*wI2* 12/15 10 par. 7)

You have voluntarily taken up the pioneer service, which entails willingly devoting a considerable part of your life towards the field ministry

As a pioneer, you take very seriously your stewardship of the "sacred secrets of God" and your responsibility to impart such to others as directed by the Master, Jesus Christ (1Co 4:1; 9:16; *wI2* 12/15 11 par. 13)

This requires that you carefully manage your time, energies, and abilities so as to be effective at your assignment

With such faithful stewardship come honor, trust, and responsibility

Let us prayerfully consider how the principles of stewardship can be applied to your service as a pioneer

PIONEERS BELONG TO GOD AND ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO HIM (10 min.)

Being so involved in the ministry of the Word, you are reminded constantly that you have been "bought with a price," the sacrificial blood of the Christ (1Co 6:19, 20)

This awareness affects how you approach your service

A slave does not please himself or put personal interests first [Review Jesus' parable at Luke 17:7-10 (*wI2* 12/15 10-11 pars. 8-10)]

As a faithful steward, you have chosen to put God's interests first and to handle your responsibilities as a pioneer as instructed

Questions: How does your choice of secular employment demonstrate that you belong to God and have a sense of accountability toward him? (Mt 6:24, 33; Lu 16:13) How is this reflected in your personal organization and schedule? (Php 1:10; 3:16)

Jehovah is not unreasonable in what he asks of pioneers, and the requirements for pioneers are not burdensome

We should take seriously our commitment to meet the hour requirement for our specific avenue of pioneer service

This is a *requirement* that we voluntarily committed to on our application to pioneer, and we recognize our responsibility (Ec 5:2; Mt 5:37)

Initiative, determination, and self-discipline in adhering to a realistic schedule are necessary (1Co 9:23, 25, 27)

A helpful principle for meeting the pioneer hour requirements is "early in the day, early in the month, early in the year"

PIONEERS ADHERE TO THOSE STANDARDS COMMON TO ALL CHRISTIAN STEWARDS (15 min.)

Christian stewards are enjoined to love one another (*wI2* 12/15 11 par. 11)

Show love by working closely with your congregation (*od* 113 par. 2)

Endeavor to support group arrangements for field service whenever possible, particularly on weekends and evenings

Seek to work with a variety of publishers, taking the initiative by making appointments

Be responsive to the direction of the local body of elders

Work at being peaceable (a peacemaker) and being supportive of fellow pioneers (Ro 14:19)

Cultivate love for people to whom we preach (*w89* 5/15 21-22)

Maintain a happy, friendly disposition when witnessing

Be very attentive and sympathetic as you engage householders in meaningful conversation

Be “peaceable with all men” (Ro 12:18; *km* 12/12 1)

Do not let negative responses stifle your positive attitude

Exert yourself to conform to God’s righteous standards

Strenuously avoid conduct and lifestyles condemned in God’s word (1Co 6:9, 10)

Carefully assess whether your recreation and entertainment choices are truly wholesome and in moderation

Exercise care and discipline in your use of the Internet and electronic devices

Sadly, some pioneers have forfeited sacred privileges because of succumbing to viewing defiling pornography and immoral text messages

[Consider proper use of cell phones while sharing in the ministry (*km* 4/13 2)]

Question: What benefits do we enjoy by pursuing a lifestyle of willing conformity to the requirements of love and fine Christian conduct? (Isa 48:17, 18; Ac 23:1) [Better health, satisfying ministry, peaceful relationships with others, clean conscience, approved standing with God]

PIONEERS MUST BE FAITHFUL, TRUSTWORTHY (15 min.)

Never would we want to be found by the Master as being irresponsible or disloyal or to be judged by him as being “sluggish” and “good-for-nothing” (Mt 25:26, 28-30)

Jesus illustrated the consequences of neglectful stewardship [Read Luke 16:1, 2]

How would you personally describe the quality of your pioneer service? Are you industrious?

Are you progressively improving your preaching and teaching skills?

A pioneer is a faithful and trustworthy steward, not by just putting in time but by scrupulously caring for the “sacred secrets” and faithfully imparting these to others in a meaningful, effective way as directed by the Master, Jesus Christ through the “faithful and discreet slave” (1Co 4:1; Mt 24:45-47; *w12* 12/15 11 par. 13)

He is diligent in following up on interested ones who have expressed interest (*km* 7/08 4)

His return visit records are detailed and well organized, enabling him to give prayerful thought and preparation beforehand

Question: What are the benefits of having a personal territory, if such is available? (*km* 1/13 2)

He has carefully studied and is up-to-date on suggestions found in *Our Kingdom Ministry*, such as using our official Web site and using videos in our teaching (*km* 5/13 3; *km* 12/12 5-6)

[Briefly describe the suggestions, citing others as time permits]

He consistently strives to start and conduct Bible studies

Questions: Why is this a primary objective of our Christian ministry? What tools are available to start and effectively conduct Bible studies? (*km* 3/13 4-7; *km* 7/12 2-3; *km* 4/12 1)

He strives for a balanced, varied ministry, including house-to-house witnessing, making return visits, conducting Bible studies, evening witnessing, public witnessing, business witnessing, and telephone witnessing (*km* 1/13 1; *km* 10/12 1)

Questions: What avenues of public witnessing are available in your congregation? What are the benefits of being involved in these varied features of the field service?

LOCAL NEEDS (10 min.)

NOT IN COMPARISON WITH OTHERS (5 min.)

[Read Galatians 6:4] When we evaluate our Christian stewardship, particularly as it applies to our pioneer service, we must exercise care

Rather than compare what we do with what others do, we should focus on what we personally are able to do (*w12 12/15 13 par. 18*)

Such modesty will prevent us from becoming prideful or becoming discouraged

We should also realistically recognize that our circumstances may change

Effects of poor health, aging, changing responsibilities may prevent us from doing all that we used to

On the other hand, adjustments in our circumstances may enable us to expand our service, such as by moving to where the need is greater

We can 'see good for our hard work' and bear much fruit, regardless of whether people respond (*Ec 2:24; km 11/12 1 par. 3*)

CHERISH YOUR STEWARDSHIP (2 min.)

As trusted stewards, we enjoy positions of great honor, having been entrusted with the never-to-be repeated work of declaring the good news during the last days

It is our privilege to devote a large part of our lives to this sacred undertaking

Being an organized, diligent pioneer makes it evident to the Master and other onlookers that we take our pioneer service seriously and cherish our stewardship

Let us be faithful stewards (*1Co 4:2*)