

CIRCUIT OVERSEER MEETS WITH ELDERS AND MINISTERIAL SERVANTS PROGRAM FOR MARCH 2015 THROUGH AUGUST 2015

Note to the circuit overseer:

Warmly express appreciation for all that the appointed men are doing in caring for the needs of the congregation. Mention specific areas in which you have observed that the brothers are doing well, particularly in their teaching. The tone of the meeting should be loving and positive (*tg* 21:11)

Theme: Allow Jehovah to “Finish Your Training” (1Pe 5:10)

INTRODUCTION (3 min.)

In the Christian Greek Scriptures, the life course of a Christian is compared to that of an athlete performing in a contest (1Co 9:24-27; 2Ti 2:5; 4:7, 8; Heb 12:1)

A Christian has to keep himself “in shape” spiritually

An athlete’s success depends to a large extent on the trainer

Who is the trainer of a Christian “athlete”? [**Read 1 Peter 5:10**]

Because we allow ourselves to be trained by Jehovah and his organization, we become firm, strong, and grounded

We will now consider three groups who benefit from Jehovah’s training:

- (1) Ourselves
- (2) Our families
- (3) New ones

BECOME FIRMLY GROUNDED YOURSELF (15 min.)

Elders, with the assistance of ministerial servants, shepherd the chronically sick or those experiencing emotional problems and assist others to cope with economic hardships, the loss of loved ones, and natural disasters (1Pe 5:9)

Christian overseers also face the challenge of protecting the congregation from willful wrongdoers

You can “shepherd the flock of God” because Jehovah reassures you that “he will make you strong” and “will firmly ground you” (1Pe 5:2, 10)

Being well-grounded involves having a solid “foundation,” being rooted (1Pe 5:10, *Byington*)

Daily Bible reading firmly grounds your foundation of faith

It equips you to be “sound in mind” (or to exercise “good judgment”) and to be “reasonable” (1Ti 3:2, 3, *ftn.*)

Reasonableness is not simply a result of one’s natural ability, intellect, or life experience. Rather, it results from a determined effort to align our thinking with Jehovah’s superior thoughts

Train yourself to remember encouraging scriptures, Bible principles, and Scriptural accounts that fortify your faith (*w95* 5/1 19 par. 17)

Jesus relied on God’s Word to give hope and spiritual guidance to others (Joh 12:49, 50)

What strengthens you may well strengthen another

Question: How do the following scriptures emphasize the need for appointed men to feed on God’s Word?

[**Read Deuteronomy 17:18-20**] [It fosters humility and a proper fear of Jehovah]

[**Read Psalm 19:7, 8**] [It restores strength and makes us wise]

[**Read Isaiah 32:1, 2**] [It enables us to comfort and protect]

[**Read Titus 1:9**] [It equips us to teach and to counsel]

Regularly praying for God's holy spirit will make you firm, strong, and grounded

Become a man of prayer, a 'beggar for the spirit' (Mt 5:3, ftn)

Prayerfully rely on Jehovah for wisdom as you care for the needs of the congregation (Jas 1:5)

A prayerful man rooted in his faith is contrasted with a spiritually immature man who becomes "unsteady in all his ways" (Jas 1:6-8)

A good routine of Bible reading and prayer will help you remain "rooted and established on the foundation" of your faith (Eph 3:17)

Trust that Jehovah God will "finish your training" and "will firmly ground you"

HELP YOUR FAMILY TO BE TRAINED AND BE MADE STRONG (15 min.)

Satan is "like a roaring lion, seeking to devour" families (1Pe 5:8)

Question: What are some methods that Satan is using to attack families?

Family heads play a key role in training their family to resist Satan's attacks. In this regard, we learn much from Jehovah [**Read John 5:19**]

Question: In light of Jesus' words, what is one outstanding way that Jehovah trained his Son?

Just as the example of Jehovah had a positive influence on Jesus, and by extension, all of us, the example of a family head plays a vital role in training his family (De 6:6-9; Eph 5:28-30)

Questions: What example should a family head set with regard to preparing for and commenting at the meetings? (Ps 22:22, 25) How can a family head set the example in being zealous for the ministry? (Ps 40:8) What role does family worship play in training the family to stay close to Jehovah and his organization and thus remain strong? What tools have you used to make your family worship effective and enjoyable? (*w11* 8/15 6-7; *km* 1/11 6)

Be assured that as you continue to imitate Jehovah by setting a good example yourself, your family will be made strong in the faith (Hab 3:19; Eph 5:1)

ASSIST NEW ONES TO BE MADE FIRM (10 min.)

New ones need assistance to become firmly 'rooted and stabilized in the faith' [**Read Colossians 2:6, 7**]

They need encouragement to develop godly qualities and to cultivate a love of God's Word in order to become "completely equipped for every good work" (2Ti 3:16, 17)

Assist others to benefit from the spiritual provisions supplied by God's organization

Questions: Why is it beneficial for elders to meet with each baptized publisher one year following baptism? (*ks10* 2:12) Why is it helpful for the elders to ensure that both the *Bible Teach* and "God's Love" books are completed by newly baptized ones? (*km* 3/09 2) How can assisting new ones to make use of jw.org (and if they understand English, JW Broadcasting) in their personal study and family worship help them to become firmly rooted?

Train new ones by working with them in the ministry (*w06* 5/1 18-19 par. 6)

Questions: What are the benefits of inviting newer publishers to accompany you in the field ministry? (Php 2:4) How can older, experienced Christians assist in training newer ones? (*w14* 1/15 23-24 pars. 6-7)

Continue to help God's flock to be made firm by your fine example and by your efforts to train new ones

LOCAL NEEDS (10 min.)

CONCLUSION (2 min.)

Elders and ministerial servants are indeed a blessing to the ever-growing organization that continues moving ahead at a fast pace [**Read Isaiah 60:22**]

While Jehovah continues to speed things up in his own due time, may you continue to allow him to finish your training as you also do your part in training your families and new ones

Be assured that, as noted in Song 60 of *Sing to Jehovah*, “He’ll guide you and protect you, as he has all along. Yes, he will make you firm, and he will make you strong” (1Pe 5:10)

[At this point, the ministerial servants should be dismissed. Thereafter, consider with the elders any other necessary matters needing attention]