



# WATCHTOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF NEW YORK, INC.

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May 15, 1997

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS IN THE UNITED STATES

Re: Adjustments In Making Congregation Remittances

Dear Brothers:

We are writing to inform you of a new arrangement that the Society is developing to speed up the processing of monthly congregation remittances. For many decades, each congregation has submitted a monthly check along with a Contribution Remittance Form (S(d)-20) to the Society. Donations made to the worldwide work, Society Kingdom Hall Fund, Traveling Overseers' Automobile and Insurance Program, and other funds and payments have been made in this manner. Some congregations are also making separate monthly remittances on a Kingdom Hall property loan. We are now endeavoring to streamline this process and speed up the transfer of these remittances.

We are pleased to inform you that a new program is being developed, whereby congregations may electronically forward to the Society the funds that have been collected. The Society has developed a computerized system that will allow you to call a toll-free number using a touch-tone telephone and enter the amounts of payments and donations which you are sending to the Society. Each amount will be audibly acknowledged, and the total remittance will be calculated and stated at the end of the phone call. The completed transaction will be acknowledged by a unique confirmation number which will be given to the caller. The electronic funds transfer system will transmit this information on the same day to the Society's bank. The Society's bank will then use the Automated Clearing House (ACH) network to debit your congregation's bank account for the total amount and transfer these funds to the Society's bank account. These transaction details will appear on your monthly statement. In most cases, the electronic transfer of funds will be completed within 24 hours of receiving the information from your telephone call. In order to participate in this new program, you must have access to a touch-tone telephone. The content of the computerized dialog will be in English only.

This improved process will make funds for the worldwide work more readily available. The cost for each transfer using this method is estimated to be less than the present cost of a postage stamp and check processing. The Society will be assuming the cost of communications and bank charges for initiating these ACH debit transactions. With very few exceptions, your bank should not charge you for these transfers.