

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



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August 16, 1997

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS

Dear Brothers:

Reports reaching the Society indicate that a concerted effort is being made by certain religious organizations and individuals to enter into controversial religious debates with our brothers, with the aim of provoking opposition to our work. For this reason, we need to note carefully the following reminders.

As messengers of godly peace, it is the course of wisdom for us to avoid any of such confrontations with any religious group or individual, whether Christian, Muslim, atheist, or pagan. (Rom. 5:1; Jas. 3:17; compare Matthew 10:13.) We should rather stick to peacefully proclaiming the Kingdom good news and avoid confrontational situations. In dealing with these matters, care should be exercised so as not to be enticed into angry debates that could lead to greater problems, including possible violent reactions on the part of opposers and other misinformed persons.

Another area where caution is needed is the recent trend by FM radio stations to invite individuals for a panel discussion of issues of current interest. Sometimes listeners are invited to phone in with their questions or comments while the program is in progress. Such "talk shows" usually thrive on controversy and may even deteriorate into angry debates. The result is that the audience is often left confused instead of being educated. Others, such as opposers or apostates, may use this forum to promote their cause. There is therefore the need for caution if a Witness is considering appearing on such a "talk show" in his personal capacity to discuss a religious subject. We need to bear in mind, though, that before anyone can represent Jehovah's Witnesses on such panel discussions, the individual will need to receive the express approval of the Society's branch office in Accra.

As the divisions and conflicts in this dying system continue to worsen, we need to closely adhere to Christ's counsel to be 'cautious as serpents and harmless as doves.'—Matt. 10:16.

May Jehovah's blessing be with all of you as you care for Kingdom interests entrusted to you. Please be assured of our Christian love

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
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