



WATCHTOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF NEW YORK, INC.

25 COLUMBIA HEIGHTS, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11201-2483, U.S.A. PHONE (718) 625-3600

October 15, 1998

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

Dear Brothers:

With Jehovah's blessing, the good news about the Kingdom continues to be declared without letup. (Acts 5:42) Today, as in Paul's day, God's people are manifesting zeal in the preaching work and look to reach as many people as possible with the message of salvation. (Rom. 1:14-16) Each year hundreds of thousands of deserving ones from around the world respond to these efforts and learn the truth.—Matt. 10:11.

As we search people out and talk to them wherever they are, we come in contact with those who live in territories assigned to other congregations. When such a person shows interest, what should we do? The September 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry*, page 4, suggests that we try tactfully to obtain the name, address, and telephone number of the individual. Then we should pass this information along so that the congregation assigned to care for the territory where the person lives can follow up on the interest. To ensure that such referrals are cared for in an orderly manner, you will be pleased to know that the Society is making available a new Please Follow Up form (S-43) that will be used by publishers in the ministry. Its purpose is twofold.

Following up on interest: First, the Please Follow Up form will be used to record information about an interested person who lives outside your congregation's territory. Why will such a form be so useful? Many people work full-time and are often not at home when we call. So an increasing number of publishers are taking the initiative and discreetly preaching to people everywhere—in parking lots, shopping malls, factories, offices, businesses, schools, gas stations, hotels, restaurants, laundries, airports, on public transportation, the street, and so forth. Some are also creating opportunities to witness informally while relaxing at parks, recreation sites, campgrounds, or on vacation. With greater emphasis on sharing in these forms of witnessing, we are thus speaking with more and more people living outside our congregation's territory, especially in metropolitan areas. The Please Follow Up form will provide an easy and convenient means to make a note of the interest so that the form can be sent to the appropriate congregation for follow up. It has space on the back for remarks to explain briefly what the person has shown interest in and what literature, if any, was placed. By our conscientious use of this form, we will contribute to good organization and hopefully provide help to interested ones.

Locating individuals who speak another language: Second, the Please Follow Up form will be used to make a note of people, whether in your congregation's territory or not, who speak another language, including sign language. Generally, it should be used for this purpose even if the individual does not show interest in the Kingdom message. In this way, arrangements can be made for the person to hear the good news in the language that he best understands.

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When you meet a person in the house-to-house ministry or elsewhere who does not speak your language, try to determine the language that he or she does speak. The booklet *Good News for All Nations* may be helpful in this regard, as it contains a brief printed message in 59 languages. After you have determined the householder's language, fill out the follow-up form. While it may not always be possible to get the person's name and telephone number, it is important to list the language and address accurately. For further instructions on what to do when contacting those who speak another language, see the October 1993 *Our Kingdom Ministry*, page 7. The new form replaces the Foreign Language Follow-Up Slip (S-70a), which was used formerly for this purpose.

In some cases, it may not be necessary to fill out the form. For example, most Spanish-language congregations in the United States are acquainted with the whereabouts of Spanish-speaking people who live in the territory. This is also true of other heavily concentrated language groups. Furthermore, it may be that you know for a certainty that there is no congregation, group, or publisher available in a nearby area to develop interest in a particular language. If so, you may decide to accept the challenge of witnessing to that person yourself. (*km* 2/98 p. 4) In these cases, there may not be a need to fill out the form. On the other hand, a foreign-language congregation or group would no doubt appreciate assistance in locating people who speak their language, even if their territory is widely scattered, provided an interested one does not live too far away.

After filling out the Please Follow Up form, it should be given directly to the congregation secretary or placed in the box for field service reports at the Kingdom Hall. The secretary will endeavor to locate the congregation, group, or publisher who speaks that language nearest the area where the interested person lives. He may contact the city overseer or the circuit overseer for assistance in determining where to forward the form. If it is still not possible to determine the appropriate congregation or group after following these steps, the form may be sent to the Society for handling.

A supply of the Please Follow Up form will be sent to your congregation after November 1, 1998. Upon receipt, the service overseer will make sure that the forms are made available to everyone. Each publisher should be alert to use the forms as needed. If your congregation runs out of its supply before the end of the service year, additional quantities may be ordered on the Literature Request Form (S-14).

May Jehovah continue to bless our efforts to reach all people with the good news. With this letter we send our warm Christian love and greetings.

Your brothers,



OF NEW YORK, INC.

PS to the presiding overseer: Please have this letter read at the first Service Meeting following November 1, 1998.