

# Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



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April 2, 2010

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS IN CANADA

Re: Audio recordings of theocratic events

Dear Brothers:

As world conditions worsen during this time of the end, an increasing number of faithful older brothers and sisters are feeling the effects of a poor economy and a lack of appropriate means of transportation in more and more regions of the globe. (2 Tim. 3:1) These conditions are often compounded by health problems, which at times hinder some of our brothers and sisters from attending their congregation meetings, circuit assemblies, special assembly days, and district conventions. On occasion, even some younger ones become limited because of unexpected infirmities, and so forth, missing out on the encouragement that is provided at such theocratic events.

Having the above in mind, this is to inform you that *official audio recordings* of all Christian meetings, including the aforementioned events, may be made available to those with limiting personal circumstances. It could be that you are already providing audio recordings of your local congregation meetings for those who need them, for example, those who are not able to listen to the meetings via telephone, and this is commendable.

**Circuit assembly, special assembly day, and district convention programs:** As you know, individual publishers are allowed to use personal devices *not* connected to the sound system to make recordings of meetings or other programs for the benefit of family members or friends with limiting circumstances. However, they oftentimes record only parts of the program, and the quality of such recordings is sometimes poor. Therefore, the following special provision is being made available for those who are truly limited because of their age, illness, or other understandable circumstances.

Some sound systems used at our district conventions or circuit events may have built-in recording capabilities or may have a dedicated port available that will allow the responsible brothers handling the sound to make direct recordings off of the system. This would be preferable. However, if a computer or an MP3 recorder cannot be directly linked to the sound system and the program is being transmitted by an FM signal, usually the sound technicians can obtain a clear recording by using an MP3 recorder. Thereafter, the responsible brothers will make copies of the audio recordings on compact discs using the MP3 format. A compact disc will automatically be sent to each congregation. If there are no publishers in your congregation who have the limiting circumstances mentioned above, you should inform your circuit overseer so that the recording of the circuit assembly and special assembly day programs will not be made for your congregation. In the case of district conventions, however, a copy will be sent automatically to the congregations. If there is no need for such in your congregation, please destroy the copy sent to you.

Re: Audio recordings of theocratic events

April 2, 2010

Page 2

Of course, if someone wishes to record any of the meeting programs mentioned above on his own, he may do so as long as he does not connect his personal device to the sound system or unnecessarily disturb others in the process. However, such personal recordings should not be circulated to others or placed on any electronic networks, in harmony with the April 2010 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box.

**Procedure to follow:** The aforementioned official audio recordings are not to be distributed indiscriminately but should be loaned only to those who truly have a need. Thus, the following arrangement should be implemented: Assign one of your elders to monitor the loaning of such audio recordings to the local publishers who were unable to attend for the reasons indicated above. Individual circumstances should be considered when determining the duration of the loan in each case. After the compact disc has been circulated to those having need of it in your congregation, it should be returned to the responsible elder and be destroyed. This procedure should be followed with all recordings of circuit assembly, special assembly day, and district convention programs. Please note that personal “libraries” of these official audio recordings are not allowed. Therefore, no one whom the elders include in this special provision should make a copy of the official audio recording for himself or loan the disc containing this information to someone else without the explicit consent of the elders. In addition, all who benefit from this arrangement should be encouraged to take personal notes of the program, if possible, similar to what the rest of Jehovah’s people do when attending these meetings.

We trust this loving provision and these guidelines will prove to be beneficial and encouraging to all within the congregation who must endure limiting circumstances that prevent them from attending the various Christian meetings that are arranged throughout the year for their spiritual benefit. Thus, we pray for Jehovah’s blessing on this alternative arrangement and upon your faithful service. Please be assured of our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation  
of Jehovah’s Witnesses*

cc: Assembly Hall Committees  
District Convention Committees  
Traveling overseers

PS to secretary:

This letter should be retained in the congregation permanent file of policy letters. You may wish to update the congregation copy of *Index to Letters—For Bodies of Elders* (S-22) at this time as well.