

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



The Ridgeway, London, NW7 1RN Telephone: 020 8906 2211

March 17, 2013

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Re: Showing consideration for those involved in theocratic projects

Dear Brothers:

Publishers and pioneers are working hard to accomplish the all-important preaching of the good news of God's Kingdom during this time of the end. (Matt. 24:14) Additionally, many brothers and sisters assist with construction of Kingdom Halls, Assembly Halls, and Bethel facilities, as well as with other organizational matters. Some brothers serve on Regional Building Committees, Hospital Liaison Committees, Disaster Relief Committees, Assembly Hall Committees, Convention Committees, or as Bethel remote volunteers. (Ex. 35:25, 26, 30-36:1) All such assignments are a valuable form of sacred service. These brothers and sisters deserve our commendation, encouragement, and support for their part in caring for these theocratic responsibilities. Their caring for this important work may affect their field service activity as well as their share in other congregation activities. Elders in their congregation can show appreciation for brothers caring for other organizational needs by filling in for them locally when they must be away and not being critical of their reduced field service activity. Consideration along these lines should also be extended when reviewing brothers' qualifications for recommendation as elders and ministerial servants. The November 7, 2008, letter to all bodies of elders contains direction on how publishers involved in important theocratic activity can write a brief explanatory note on the back of their *Field Service Report* (S-4), even when such activity does not qualify for receiving pioneer hour credit.

Although pioneers generally concentrate on the field ministry with as little interruption as possible, they may also be involved in some of the theocratic assignments mentioned above, especially when other publishers are not available. Their spirituality, availability, and willing spirit allow them to support Kingdom interests in a special way. Thus, they may be extended hour credit to help them meet their monthly requirement. But at times, pioneers spend more time in these activities in a given month than they can receive hour credit for. They may thus fall short of the annual regular pioneer hour requirement. In such cases, please keep in mind what is stated in the September 5, 2007, letter to all bodies of elders: "When the body of elders reviews the activity of the regular pioneers at the end of the service year, they should take into consideration all that such pioneers are doing on behalf of Kingdom interests and grant special consideration to them. . . . The elders, being aware of the pioneer's work to support Kingdom interests, will offer warm commendation."

We trust these reminders will prove helpful as you provide encouragement to the sheep entrusted to your care. We send you our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,
*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

cc: 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.