

ELDERS MEET WITH REGULAR PIONEERS, SPECIAL PIONEERS, AND FIELD MISSIONARIES

PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER 2014 THROUGH JANUARY 2015

Note to the elders:

This meeting is to be conducted in December or January by two elders selected by the body of elders. Other elders may attend. The meeting should be positive, practical, and encouraging. Allow those in attendance to comment freely on the questions posed. Supplemental questions may be used as needed and as time allows

Theme: “Stir Up Like a Fire the Gift of God” (2Ti 1:6)

APPRECIATE AND USE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS (5 min.)

Paul encouraged Timothy to “stir up like a fire the gift of God” that was in him **[Read 2 Timothy 1:6]**

The word “gift” here is translated from the Greek word *kharisma*. From the Scriptural standpoint, *kharisma* is a gift received thanks to God’s undeserved kindness (*w98 2/15 24-26*)

In the case of Timothy, the “gift” referred to at 2 Timothy 1:6 involved some special service in the congregation. He had to “stir up like a fire” this gift by being diligent in his assignment

You have spiritual gifts to share with others, both inside and outside the congregation. These gifts are related to your service privileges and your opportunities to help others. Appreciation for such gifts should motivate you to “stir up like a fire,” or exert yourself, to do your very best

What are some of your spiritual gifts?

“STIR UP LIKE A FIRE” THE GIFT OF FULL-TIME SERVICE (15 min.)

Your gift of full-time service should not be neglected

Cherishing this gift requires self-examination

[Read 1 Timothy 4:13, 16]

Question: In what practical ways can full-time servants apply this admonition?

[Read 2 Timothy 4:2]

Questions: Why is it important to cultivate the art of teaching? In what practical ways can full-time servants apply this admonition? (*w08 1/15 8-12*)

Jehovah helped Elijah “stir up like a fire” his service privileges despite discouragement

After Queen Jezebel learned of Elijah’s role in the execution of 450 Baal prophets, she threatened him with death (*ia 101 par. 6*)

When Elijah became fearful, Jehovah strengthened him (*ia 103 pars. 13-14*)

Today we experience difficult situations [Mention some examples that apply locally]

Prayer and meditation on God’s Word can help us “stir up like a fire,” or put our heart and energy into, our ministry despite difficulties (*Lu 11:9-13; ia 104 par. 16*)

Question: How have you felt Jehovah’s strength in dealing with a stressful situation? (*Ro 15:4*)

“STIR UP LIKE A FIRE” THE PRIVILEGE TO BUILD FAITH IN OTHERS (20 min.)

Both in the congregation and in the ministry, be alert to build others’ faith

Violence, economic problems, and poor health affect many

Love for others will motivate us to encourage them

[Read Romans 1:11, 12]

Questions: What is the spiritual gift mentioned here? How can we use this spiritual gift? (*w98 2/15 26-27*)

[Read Philippians 2:1-4]

Question: Why is it not helpful to compare the service of one publisher with that of another?
(*w13* 8/15 21 par. 12)

Giving a fellow believer commendation can have a lasting, positive effect

[Relate the experiences mentioned in the August 15, 2013, issue of *The Watchtower*, page 21, paragraphs 10 and 11]

Questions: Have you seen the good effects of kindly encouraging others? How has their faith been built up?

It is also appropriate to encourage ones whom we meet in our ministry

The proper attitude is needed (*w00* 7/1 11-12 pars. 12-15)

Why do we preach?

We desire to praise Jehovah and sanctify his name (Ps 145:10-12; Mt 6:9)

We love people (Mr 6:34)

We view each fellow human as a potential brother or sister (Ac 13:48; 2Ti 2:25)

[Read 2 Timothy 1:7, 8]

Questions: To what lengths did Paul go in order to build faith in others? What do we learn from that? (*w06* 10/1 22 pars. 7-9)

TREASURE THE GIFT OF EVERLASTING LIFE (15 min.)

The gift of everlasting life should be treasured and shared **[Read Romans 6:23]**

Look for more opportunities to share the good news

Do not neglect preaching from house to house

[Read Acts 5:42]

Question: What benefits do we receive when we share in the house-to-house work?

It may be necessary to adjust the time when we engage in this activity if we are having difficulty finding people at home (*km* 6/13 1)

Be alert to adapt your presentation according to the needs of the territory (1Co 9:20-23)

Participate in public witnessing

[Read Proverbs 1:20, 21]

Question: What opportunities are available in territories that lend themselves to public witnessing? [If the congregation has an arrangement for public witnessing, ask the audience to relate encouraging experiences in this activity]

Seek opportunities to witness informally

Boldness is required; prayer will help us to have such boldness (Ac 4:29, 31)

[Read John 4:6, 7, 25, 26]

Questions: What do we learn from how Jesus dealt with the Samaritan woman? How can we be prepared to witness informally?

[Ask for experiences of witnessing informally to (1) a business owner, (2) a fellow traveler, and (3) a non-Witness family member]

Since lives are involved, we should seek every opportunity to share the gift of everlasting life (1Ti 4:16)

“STIR UP LIKE A FIRE” YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS (5 min.)

Thanks to Jehovah’s undeserved kindness, we have many spiritual gifts to share with others [Summarize the three gifts discussed in this outline]

Having these gifts is no reason to boast (1Co 4:7)

[Read 1 Peter 4:10, 11]

Question: What responsibility do we have in connection with any spiritual gifts we have received?

In Israelite homes, fires were often just glowing coals

The coals could be stirred up to produce flames and more heat

Similarly, all of us need to put our heart and energy into our assignments, ‘stirring up like a fire’ any spiritual gifts we have received

Our example will have a positive effect on the congregation and will help others to appreciate their spiritual gifts and their spiritual need more fully (Mt 5:3; 1Th 5:11)