

WATCHTOWER

BIBLE AND TRACT SOCIETY OF NEW YORK, INC.

CABLE WATCHTOWER

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April 21, 1990

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES IN THE UNITED STATES

Dear Brothers:

On March 1, 1990, we found it advisable to adjust the method of presenting the Society's publications in our ministry. Since this was put into operation a number of questions have arisen, which we would like to answer here.

First, we would like to reaffirm that there has been no change in our primary objectives. As ministers of God's Word we are to preach the good news of the Kingdom throughout the world for a witness to all nations, to help righteous-hearted people into the way of life, and to warn the wicked of God's coming judgments.—Matt. 24:14; 28:19, 20; Rom. 10:15; Ezek. 3:17.

This activity has always been financially supported by voluntary donations from Jehovah's Witnesses and others whose hearts have moved them to help.

Bible literature is offered as necessary aids to our ministry. We do not distribute literature so as to gain financial support for our ministry. Nor is literature distributed to provide financial support for any of Jehovah's Witnesses personally.

As we carry on our nonprofit religious activity, we want to continue to make full use of the printed page. We do not want our preaching work or the way we use literature to be classified as a commercial activity in any way. All literature is sent to congregations, provided to publishers, and offered to interested people without charging them for it. Expenses involved in producing and shipping the literature to congregations are covered by voluntary donations made to the Society. Any who so desire may make a donation to support the worldwide activity of the Society.

This has not changed the fundamental character of our work. We are ministers preaching the good news of the Kingdom and teaching people Bible truths. We have not now begun to go from house to house for the purpose of soliciting donations, though we will be pleased to inform persons showing an interest in our work how they might share in supporting the worldwide work by making small donations if they so choose. The primary means of financing this global witness remains the same, Jehovah's spirit moving generous, willing hearts.

Now for a few questions which have been raised relative to the making of donations to the worldwide preaching work, and to the distribution of literature. These are considered below.

Should publishers place in the contribution boxes the full amount of donations they receive in the field?

Yes, considering all aspects of the matter, this would be the proper thing to do. Such donations were given with the intention of supporting the worldwide work of the Society. Therefore, it may be helpful to carry a separate purse or envelope for donations from people in the field. Then, later, these monies can be deposited in the designated box at the Kingdom Hall. Publishers may also make their own donations to support the worldwide work according to their ability and desire, whenever they choose to do so.—2 Cor. 8:10-15; 9:6-14.

How does this arrangement affect those in full-time service, with regard to literature and magazines?

As stated above, the logical consequence of this current arrangement requires that all donations received in the field service be sent by the congregation to the Society to support its worldwide work. The majority of those in full-time service support themselves with part-time secular work. As with any other publisher, pioneers obtain literature without charge. The Society is making the literature available to assist us with our preaching work. All will continue to use the literature provided as extensively as possible, but also in a careful, responsible manner.

Presenting the literature or subscriptions

When presenting literature at the doors, be sure to follow the method illustrated in *Our Kingdom Ministry* for May, 1990, in the article "Use Our Literature Wisely," pars. 3-7. In the case of offering the subscription, explain that if the person would like to have the magazine on a regular basis, we will be pleased to write up a subscription so they will receive it in the mail. When this is done, the publisher could explain further about the work and how it is supported by voluntary donations. If the person does not choose to make a donation, we will express our desire that he benefit from reading the literature and offer to come back to discuss further points of interest. A subscription for six months could give the person an appreciation of the Kingdom message in the magazines.

Should we say to people that we are offering literature on a complete donation basis?

This would not be appropriate. When presenting literature to people we will use the expressions shown in the May, 1990, *Our Kingdom Ministry*, in the article referred to above.

What if a donor wishes to make his donation by check?

The donor should be asked to make the check payable to "Jehovah's Witnesses." The check should not be made payable to the Watchtower Society. The publisher will put such check in the box marked "Contributions for the Society's Worldwide Work.—Matthew 24:14."

We hope that this information will be of help to all in continuing to press ahead with preaching the good news of the Kingdom. The way you give of your time, energy, and funds to support this worldwide activity is very much appreciated. (Col. 3:23) We pray earnestly for Jehovah's continued blessing on all of you and on all features of this work. (Mal. 3:10) Be assured of our warm love.

Your brothers,

Watchtower B. & T. Society
OF NEW YORK, INC.