

Announcement

April 3, 2020

FOR THE ATTENTION OF ALL ELDERS

1. **Optional Arrangement for Receiving a Zoom Account:** Many bodies of elders have chosen to use *Zoom* to hold congregation meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic. In view of this interest, the organization has used disaster relief funds to purchase a number of *Zoom* accounts for congregation use during this global crisis. This arrangement is *optional* and *confidential*. Bodies of elders that wish to participate will receive one *Zoom* account allowing 300 participants per meeting without the 40-minute time limit. Additionally, each *Zoom* account allows various brothers to serve as the *Zoom* host for meetings arranged by the body of elders.

2. If the body of elders is interested in receiving such a *Zoom* account, please *select one capable elder or ministerial servant* to receive and configure the *Zoom* account. Thereafter, he should submit the online request form available at https://watchtower.formstack.com/forms/zoom_request. (The request form password has been provided to the coordinator of the body of elders.) Information should be entered *accurately* so as not to delay account processing. If an existing *Zoom* account is already being used for congregation meetings, the body of elders may decide to migrate to the organizational account. If so, the e-mail address associated with the current account may be submitted. However, a jwpub.org or jw.org e-mail address *cannot* be used for this arrangement. Within 24 hours of submitting the online request form, an e-mail from *Zoom* will be sent directly to the brother's e-mail address. Upon receipt, he should follow the instructions to set up the account and update his profile. Thereafter, he should configure the meeting settings as outlined in *Zoom Online Videoconferencing and Meetings*.

3. The organization is offering this arrangement to assist interested congregations to continue holding their meetings during this pandemic. Those desiring to assist their brothers by financially 'offsetting the need' may donate to the worldwide work in the usual manner, such as by using donate.jw.org. (2 Cor. 8:14) Such generous contributions will also assist with ongoing relief efforts around the world.—2 Cor. 9:7.

4. **Public Ministry and Congregation Meeting During COVID-19:** Field service group overseers should inform the publishers in their groups of the direction in the announcements to congregations as soon as possible. When assigning publishers to smaller neighborhood or family groups, please use good judgement and exercise caution so as to avoid violating governmental law and bringing reproach on the organization. In addition, when assigning elderly ones, as well as those who have underlying medical conditions to these groups, please take into consideration their increased risk, and take additional precautions.

5. **2020 Memorial Report:** In order to compile the 2020 Memorial attendance figures promptly, please ensure that the secretary or another elder or ministerial servant is assigned to enter the report through the appropriate section of jw.org on or before **Monday, April 13, 2020**. As a reminder, please ensure to count all those who observed the Memorial either by video conferencing, audio tie-in, watched the recorded talk or listened to the audio recording.

Announcement

April 3, 2020

FOR THE CONGREGATION

1. **[Read after the weekend meeting on April 4 or 5, 2020.] Public Ministry and Congregation Meeting During COVID-19:** We wish to thank you for the obedient and loyal spirit you have demonstrated during the Coronavirus pandemic. Truly, “your obedience has come to the notice of all,” including those taking the lead. (Rom. 16:19) We are writing to inform you of further adjustments being made for the welfare of all associated with the congregation, as well as to remain in harmony with recommendations from governmental authorities.

- **Public Ministry:** All forms of the public ministry should be discontinued until further notice. This includes the door-to-door ministry, as well as any form of public witnessing. We are confident that your love for Jehovah will move you to participate in letter writing, telephone witnessing, and other alternative forms of the ministry to the extent circumstances allow. Jehovah will bless your diligent, whole-souled efforts to continue making disciples “by all possible means.”—1 Cor. 9:22.
- **Congregation Meetings:** It has also been decided that all Christian meetings at the Kingdom Halls be suspended until further notice. Also, no more than 10 should gather together in person for Christian meetings, including meetings for field service for any form of alternative witnessing and the Memorial, even if the authorities have not yet imposed restrictions. On the other hand, some states have already limited the size of gatherings to less. In some areas, all public gatherings have been stopped by the authorities. The elders will remain alert to such restrictions. Publishers will have to use good judgment and exercise caution even when attending meetings at other locations. Though the direction here applies to all of you, elderly ones as well as those who have underlying medical conditions should understand their increased risk, and therefore acknowledge the need to take additional precautions. These practical steps will produce positive results.—Prov. 22:3.

2. We should be obedient and show that we are “in subjection to the superior authorities.” (Rom. 13:1) We thank you for willingly cooperating with these necessary adjustments in our spiritual activities at this time.

3. **[Read after the weekend meeting on April 4 or 5, 2020.] Audio Files for the Memorial and Special Talks:** In view of the COVID-19 outbreak restrictions on gatherings, many will view the special talk and Memorial talk recordings from jw.org. In some cases, this is not practical due to poor Internet connectivity and other reasons. To address this need, we are posting audio files for both talks on the public section of jw.org and in the *JW Library* app.

4. To download the audio-only version of the special talk from jw.org, go to Library > Videos > Programs and Events > 2020 Special Talk—By Country. Click or press the Download button and select the MP3 file for download. Follow similar instructions to download the audio-only version of the Memorial talk. These audio tracks are also available in some languages in the *JW Library* app in the Media > Audio section, and more languages will appear there in the next day or two.