

SMPW

FEBRUARY 2025

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A “**GOOD REPORT**” to
invigorate your SMPW ministry!
—Prov 15:30





February 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are pleased to share with you all our Winter Newsletter. We hope you find it encouraging and a reminder of how Jehovah is directing this work (Col. 3:23-24).

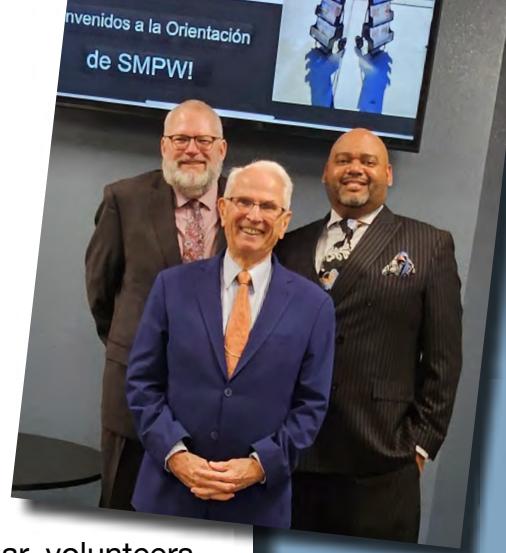
One of the blessings of oversight is seeing the efforts of you dear volunteers throughout all the zones. It is amazing to see such busy, spiritual people pour out their sacrifice to Jehovah (1 Cor.15:58). There is so much you are busy with, including the door-to-door disciple making work, your congregation and family responsibilities, some have additional organizational responsibilities as well and with all of that, you still buy out the time to support the SMPW program (Eph. 5:16). We have also seen qualities of understanding, patience, and reasonableness regarding dealing with the adverse weather conditions we have experienced recently.

Since our last newsletter, we have learned that many of you have had to deal with personal situations, including death of a loved one, illness and family emergencies. It is heartwarming to see the constant support that you dear volunteers continue to show despite these trials and tribulations. Seeing how you rely on the “God of all comfort” and focus on the Kingdom is an encouragement and example to us all (2 Cor. 1:3-4). Thank you!

As you can imagine, there is much work that goes on behind the scenes to keep this program successfully active day after day. It is appropriate that we all continue to pray for these ones that are making sacrifices on our behalf (Col. 1:9a,11). We know Jehovah will continue to provide each of us with the strength to carry out his purpose, including the role that SMPW plays in making that purpose known (Rom. 8:26,28).

Your Brothers,

CLT SMPW Program Oversight



Sep - Dec 2024 Tally - All Locations

Enjoy Life Brochures	2,001
Magazines	2,645
Other Literature	876
Videos Shown	89
Quality Conversations	7,474
Studies Started	242

APPLY YOURSELF

Developing Quality Conversations

One of our greatest joys in SMPW is when we have a Quality Conversation, but these usually don't happen by chance. **What can you do to develop more Quality Conversations?** Try the suggestions below, applying [Love People lesson 1 points 3-5.](#)

"Love . . . does not look for its own interests."

—1 Cor. 13:4, 5

Create Opportunities

Before you can have a Quality Conversation, you must start a *friendly conversation*.



AT THE CART:

- **Try to greet every passerby** with a warm smile, appropriate eye contact, and friendly greeting. Even if a conversation doesn't develop, we'll be known as the friendliest people around!
- **Be observant.** Can you compliment someone on what they're wearing or for how their children are behaved? Ask about their dog? Acknowledge and commend whenever possible.

ON INFORMAL BREAKS:

- **Try something new.** Instead of always going to the same place is there somewhere new you could visit? Where might you find people who are willing to talk?
- **Split up.** Many find it easier to start informal conversations when alone. For safety, you might keep in sight of your partner but split up to talk to others. For example, you could sit separately at a coffee shop or park, browse separately at a shop or market, and so forth.
- **Ask questions.** "Do you come here often?" "What do you like to order?" "How is your day?" Some volunteers will ask a question they may already know the answer to: "Can you tell me how to get to such-and-such?" "Do you know anything about using this parking app?" "Where's a good place I can buy...?"

Remember this scene?
Would the young woman have stopped
to sit if two sisters were on the bench?

[Starting Conversations—Video 1](#)

Jesus did not begin his conversation with the Samaritan woman by talking about the Kingdom. (John 4:7) He first spoke about the natural topic at a well: water. Likewise, by taking note of what others are doing and what may be their focus, you are more likely to start a friendly conversation.

Developing Quality Conversations... continued

Be Natural

Once a friendly conversation starts, don't try to force a spiritual topic. Be natural and look for an opportunity to make an expression of your faith when appropriate.

- **Be flexible and show personal interest.** Think about what other people are doing and what may be on their mind, rather than what we want to talk about. "Have you been busy today?" "How is the semester going for you?" "What do you think about this weather?"
- **Listen.** Don't ask too many questions or talk too much, allow others to express themselves. Try to learn something about the person that could help you to know what Bible truths might appeal to him. Recognize when it may be time to end the conversation, for now. If the conversation ends friendly, there is a better chance we can continue it another time.
- **Make a natural statement.** Try making a statement that arouses the person's curiosity. For example, if the conversation is about family, you might say, "I found some reliable advice on raising children." If discussing a news item, you could say, "I recently enjoyed reading some good news for a change."



If you develop a Quality Conversation, look for an opportunity to exchange contact information, if appropriate.

Try this: "I've enjoyed talking with you. May I send you a text, so you have my number"

Set a Goal

Why not set a goal: **try to start one friendly conversation each time you are in SMPW?** The more conversations you start, the more opportunities to develop a Quality Conversation. With prayer and persistent effort, you'll find greater success and joy in your SMPW ministry.

Encourage eavesdroppers. When talking with a partner in a busy coffee shop or similar break setting, remember others may be listening to you. You might discuss together a topic on JW.org or something in the news that would interest others. You may be surprised what results!



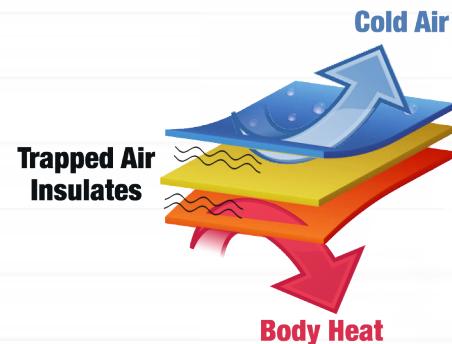
Dressing for Cold Weather

It's cold outside! Ever wonder how some volunteers seem to stay so warm? The key is usually in how they dress: **in layers, with the right materials, and essential items.** Learn tips to stay warmer on your next winter shift.

Why layer?

Wearing multiple, thinner layers will keep you warmer than a single thick layer. Plus, if you get too warm you can always open or remove a layer.

A three-layer system has proven effective...



1. Base Layer



Purpose: Your base layer sits next to your skin and is designed for moisture management. Wicking sweat away from your skin keeps you dry and warmer.

Fit: Usually, this layer is thinner. You want it to fit snugly so the material is like a 'second skin'.

Material: Moisture-wicking is essential. Merino wool is considered by many the best choice. Silk and bamboo are also great natural materials. Synthetic options like a polyester blend also work well and are often less expensive (look for antimicrobial treated if possible).

AVOID COTTON! Cotton is the worst option for a base layer. It will keep you feeling damp and cold, not what you want in winter.

Take Good Care of Special Materials

Follow the care instructions for washing and drying your base layer, especially wool and silk. Following instructions will help your investment last for many winters.

Tips provided and examples shown in this article should not be considered as rules, merely information and suggestions. Each volunteer should consider their own circumstances, limitations, and conscience when making decisions about participation, dress and grooming, and related matters.—Galatians 6:4, 5.

Continue on next page...

Dressing for Cold Weather... continued

2. Mid-Layer

Purpose: The mid-layer insulates you by trapping body heat in and keeping cold air out. All while still being breathable enough to allow moisture to escape so you don't feel clammy.

Fit: This layer should be looser than your base layer, but not baggy. Choose a weight based on conditions—if you get too hot, you'll sweat more and moisture makes you feel cold.

Material: Fleece and wool are great choices. In really cold weather, a puffy vest or jacket may give extra warmth (down or synthetic insulated).



A zippered sweater may help better regulate your temperature and avoid overheating.



Fleece-lined tops and slacks can keep you extra cozy and still look dressy.



Can you wear multiple mid-layers?

Yes! Just make sure to keep the layers loose to allow that warm air to insulate. And be careful not to overheat.

"Professing Devotion to God" ... even when it's cold.

When dressing for SMPW in cold weather, we do well to look in the mirror and ask: **do I look like a minister, or more like a skier?** The [2024 Governing Body Update #3](#) reminded: Bible principles can help us choose styles that are appropriate, modest, and reflect soundness of mind.—1Ti 2:9-10.

With thoughtful planning, we can choose cold-weather clothing that is not casual and thus 'recommends us as God's ministers'.—2Co 6:3, 4.

Continue on next page...

Dressing for Cold Weather

3. Outer Layer



Choose Wisely

Water-resistant: keeps you dry in light rain, more breathable and lighter.

Waterproof: keeps you dry in a downpour but is not as breathable.

Purpose: Your outer layer adds another layer of insulation and is like a shield against the cold wind as well as any rain or snow.

Fit: This layer should also be loose, but not baggy. Allowing room for your other layers without restricting movement. For versatility consider features like adjustable hoods, cuffs and vents. A longer coat can help keep your legs warmer too.

Material: Wool or down/synthetic insulated are excellent options. It's important to balance weather resistance with breathability to help keep you dry from the outside and inside.

Essential Items



Hat: Without it you may lose significant body heat. Wool or synthetic work well, fleece lined add extra warmth. If your hat doesn't cover your ears, consider some earmuffs as well.

Gloves: Any gloves are better than none, but for best results wear insulated gloves that aren't too tight. Mittens can be warmer, allowing your fingers to share body heat.



Scarf or Gaiter: Scarves and gaiters keep your neck and face warmer. And help seal your outer layer.



*Don't forget your feet!
Continue on next page...*

Dressing for Cold Weather... continued

Footwear

Your feet may be “shod in readiness to declare the good news” (Eph 6:15), but you’ll also need the right socks and boots to make it through a cold winter SMPW shift!

Layering two pair of socks can make your feet warmer:

1. Wear thin **liner socks** as your base layer—Merino wool, silk, or synthetics. These will wick the moisture away to keep your feet dry and retain heat.
2. A second pair of wool socks over top will insulate and pad your feet - *make sure they aren't too tight*. **Midweight wool/synthetic blend (50-80% wool)** are often best. You can adjust thickness depending on preference, and amount of room in your boots. Other all-wool or all-synthetic socks may be good.



IMPORTANT

Avoid Cotton! Cotton will make your feet feel wet and cold.

Loosen Up: If your socks/boots are too tight you'll restrict blood flow, and your feet will feel cold. If it feels cramped, loosen the laces if possible. Or you may have to wear thinner socks or just one pair.

Expert Tip: Consider sizing up your boots to allow room for two pair of socks.

Boots are best:

Look for insulated linings, temperature ratings, quick dry linings, antimicrobial properties, and deep treads. High quality boots, if cared for, can last many years.



Leather is most durable and breathable.

Thick rubber soles lift feet from the cold ground.



Taller boots protect more than your feet.

Linings like sheepskin or fur add warmth.

Warming packets and electronic accessories can also be used to provide that extra bit of heat where needed.



MEET THE TEAM BEHIND-THE-SCENES

Maintaining a constant presence requires constant work by a team of dedicated volunteers. They work side-by-side with you on-scene at the carts and work behind-the-scenes to help SMPW succeed. In this feature series we'll get to know more about the roles filled by these brothers and sisters.



SCHEDULERS

Around 110 sisters work to support the CLT program as Schedulers. These sisters work tirelessly to monitor location schedules and ensure each shift has the needed keyman and volunteers. If needed, they reach out to volunteers to help fill openings. They also work closely with Location and Zone oversight to handle last minute cancellations and other changes.

Some Schedulers also work to help schedule Field Training for new volunteers and support Special Event needs. We appreciate the diligent and loving efforts of these sisters!



What do you enjoy most about this assignment?

"I love seeing the fulfillment of what we read at Psalm 110:3, "Your people will offer themselves willingly." The beautiful willing spirit of the volunteers is truly refreshing and inspiring. I can sense their love for Jehovah and for people." – Vanessa Fink, CLT-8



"Getting to know the volunteers. Sharing Their joys (engagements, pregnancies & births) and sorrows (death of loved ones & serious illness)". – Jo Harding, CLT-7



"I love being able to help plan special events ahead of time. During the event, I enjoy supporting the key man and oversight on any last-minute changes that arise. It's such a blessing to participate among all the amazing and hard-working brothers and sisters." – Maria Roman, CLT-12



What have you come to appreciate about the SMPW program?

"The unifying effect it has on our brotherhood in our area. Getting to know more friends from other congregations and circuits. It helps us widen out and make more friends." – Eunice Wright, CLT-1



"How every opportunity is being taken to reach honest hearted ones. And how Jehovah is using his organization to accomplish this in any way possible." – Sybil Lee, CLT-5



"It proves that Jehovah knows best how to reach people. It's also a chance to see the angels at work since we hear about some of the most amazing experiences at the cart." – Alexis Schey, CLT-1



How has SMPW benefited you personally?

"Faith strengthening to be a part of the organization. Only with Jehovah's spirit can so much be accomplished." – Tami Jones, CLT-2



"It's helps me focus on just starting more natural conversations, I see some frequent passersby and have become acquainted with them, and I've started a few Bible studies. One is still being conducted over a year later and is attending meetings." – Elizabeth Wren, CLT-3

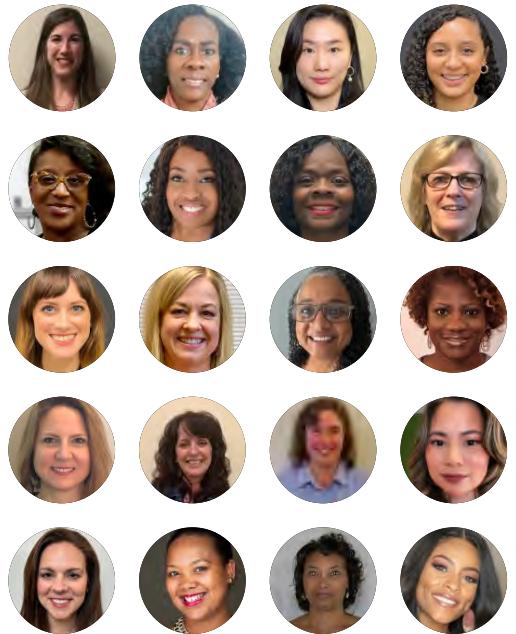


"It has improved my courage with informal witnessing not only during my shifts but also during other times. Also, I truly appreciate getting to know my dear brothers and sisters and to experience the love they have for Jehovah and the ministry." – Iris Maldonado, CLT-4

These are just a few comments reflecting the sentiments of all our dear Schedulers. Next time you're on shift with a Scheduler, why not ask about their work and express your appreciation.

Meet the rest of our Schedulers and learn how you can support them on the next page...

Meet All Our Schedulers!



How can YOU support the work of our SCHEDULERS?

- **Schedule yourself in advance.** When you sign-up in advance and are diligent to **make your 'yes' mean yes**, this eliminates unnecessary work and stress for our Schedulers—Matt. 5:37.
- **You can keep your Availability up to date in Locust.** Just go to your profile and edit. Schedulers use that to find volunteers to help with special needs.
- When a Scheduler reaches out via text or phone call, **respond as soon as you can**. Even if your answer is “no”, a timely response helps the sisters tremendously.
- **Try to do at least one shift a month.** If all volunteers regularly participate, we can maintain our constant presence in the CLT SMPW program.
- If you can do more in SMPW, **check the location schedules once a week for openings** where you could help. If there are no openings, **add yourself on the Reserve Schedule** and the Schedulers will call you first if there is a need.





At the Fall High Point Market
Special Event



EXPERIENCE: Help to Get Satisfying Answers

SPECIAL EVENT. A young deaf man was working near the cart location during the Fall **High Point Market** event. A volunteer asked if he'd spoken with Jehovah's Witnesses before. He said "yes, in the past." After telling him about a nearby deaf congregation and showing a scripture in ASL, the man shook his head with a skeptical face. The volunteer asked why the response and learned **he'd never gotten satisfying answers from church before**. He felt the world is so messed up, but God does nothing! Our volunteer empathized and assured the young man he wasn't the only one to feel this way. They then offered to show from Bible an explanation for why bad things happens and what God promises to do. The man agreed and gave his Video Phone number, arrangements were made for a follow-up call.





UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS!

Watch your email for invitations to participate in Special Events this Spring.

Augusta Masters - April 9-13

High Point Market - April 24-30

PGA Championship - May 12-18

Volunteers are invited to support specific events based on geographic zone and other factors. If you can't support an event as a volunteer, please support with your prayers.



At the Carolina Classic
Special Event





Our Carts Got Noticed at the Concert for the Carolinas!

EXPERIENCE: She Had to Tell Us How Much She Loves Us.

Charlotte Airport. A lady approached at the international arrivals and said she loves to read our literature and was thankful to be able to get more. She walked away but returned shortly after. Her children were on the phone, but she told them she would have to call back because she had to talk “with this lady” - our sister. **She just had to tell our sister how much she loves our literature and all the Witnesses that she worked with.** Many of her patients were JWs and she admired how polite and respectful they were.

She assured the sister she is Catholic and “will not change” but just wanted her to know how much she admires us and our literature! Interestingly, **though she'd read our literature she'd never checked out JW.org.** The sister encouraged her to do so, and she took a card. Jehovah knows how the seeds of truth may yet grow in this woman's heart.



SMPW ESSENTIALS

What is the RESERVE SCHEDULE?

Each zone has a Reserve Schedule. Use this if you cannot find an available shift on your desired day / time. Sign up as a backup volunteer, on standby. **If there are any cancellations during that day and time you will be contacted first about filling in.**

Sign up on Reserve just as you would any other schedule. But **please remove yourself if no longer available** during that day / time.

Remember: if you are on Reserve, do not show up to a location. You will be contacted by a scheduler if a need arises.

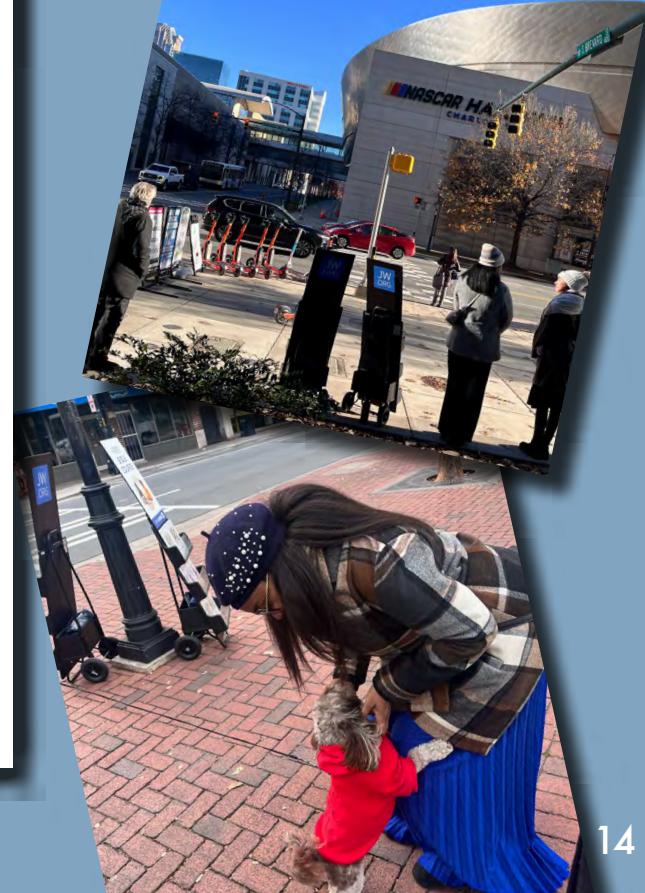
We love to see volunteers on Reserve and ready to help!

Zones 1-2-8 Charlotte



EXPERIENCE: He Stole the Contact Cards

Charlotte. After shift, a volunteer sat waiting for the City Linx tram to return to their car when an older homeless man engaged him, asking for change. After telling him several times he couldn't give anything, the tram arrived, and they both got on. Arriving at a stop our brother realized **the homeless man had stolen a case with all his contact cards!** Before the brother could do anything, another young man sitting nearby asked what the man took; then said he'll get them back for him. He stepped out of the tram, called the older man back, calling him his "uncle", and pulled him back into the tram. The young man made him apologize and give the cards back. He then asked if our brother would call the police. Our brother chose not to and instead offered a contact card. The older man now took one, and the younger man asked for one too. He then looked up the website on his phone. Once he arrived at his stop our brother thanked the younger man for his help; he apologized again and thanked our brother for his kindness as well. Our brother says **he learned to be more careful when traveling but also to remember all sorts of people may respond to our witnessing work**, even in the most "interesting" situations!



EXPERIENCE: Nobody Was at the Kingdom Hall

Greensboro. A student approached the carts at UNCG and mentioned **she'd been searching for a religion** and wanted to learn more about Jehovah's Witnesses. She told them **she'd visited the website, found a Kingdom Hall, but when she went no one was there!** Our volunteers explained that the congregation had their Circuit Assembly and encouraged her to go back again the next week. That following week she went back to a Kingdom Hall and the congregation had the visit of the Circuit Overseer. **She sat with the CO's wife and listened attentively to the talks.** When asked what she liked most she said she really enjoyed the use of illustrations which helped her understand. Since then, there have been a number of follow-up calls and hopefully a Bible study will soon result. What a fine reminder to direct people to JW.org!



Zone 3 Greensboro



Zone 4 Columbia



EXPERIENCE: Taking the Initiative Leads to a Bible Study

Columbia. While on shift at the Art Museum, a volunteer noticed a man looking at the cart from across the street. **Our brother waved, and the man waved back.** Shortly after, he crossed the street looking at the carts again. So, as he got closer **the brother walked to him and greeted him**, asking if he'd seen the carts before. The man said he was a business owner down the street. He'd noticed the carts for some time but was reluctant to stop. Our brother explained the purpose of our ministry and our global presence, then **asked** "if you could ask God any question what would you ask?". The man replied: "What happens when we die and where do we go?" Our brother then showed him the answer from the scriptures, to which the man smiled and said: "I knew there had to be more than just dying." Our brother gave him the *Enjoy Life* brochure and **offered to stop by his place of business** to discuss the first few paragraphs to help answer more of his questions. He said "Sure". They exchanged information, and the brother has since been able to have a progressive Bible study each week after his shift.



SMPW ESSENTIALS

What is a TRANSITION AREA?

This is a designated area nearby each Location where volunteers meet their Keyman before the shift to get organized for their activity. Using the Transition Area prevents a large crowd at the cart, which can be distracting from our work.—1Co 14:40

Your keyman may ask you to arrive at the Transition Area about 10 minutes before your shift. This allows him to conduct the Meeting for Field Service, organize for the first break rotation, and then take over the prior shift.

Find the details for each Transition Area on the location General Information in Locust. If you aren't sure, ask your Keyman in advance

Zone 5 Fayetteville



Zone 7 Winston-Salem



EXPERIENCE: "I Wish I Could Believe That"

Winston-Salem. At the Courthouse location a woman was encouraged to take what interested her from the cart, she reached for the *Watchtower* featuring God's Kingdom. Our sister **engaged her in conversation about that subject** and found out she's a third time breast cancer survivor. Our sister responded, "I understand, my sister is too! Let me show you at Revelation 21:4 what God promises to do. Did you notice no more tears, and pain or even death? The bad things that happen to us now are never Gods fault." She then shared James 1:13. The woman replied, "I've been through so much, **I wish I could believe that.**" She then picked up the *Enjoy Life* brochure. So, our sister offered a free Bible study and **demonstrated the study** right there using the back of the brochure. She obtained the woman's contact information and arranged for follow-up. Later that day she texted the woman with a list of scriptures they had discussed. The woman replied and said she felt God wanted her to talk to the volunteers that day.



Frequently Asked Questions

1. How often should I participate in SMPW?

We do not have rules as each volunteer's circumstance is different. However, we recommend doing at least one shift each month if possible. This will help you continue to be effective and will help ensure our program is supported.

2. Is there a limit to how many shifts I can do?

We do not have rules, however all volunteers should be balanced. Many pioneers have a weekly schedule to support SMPW while also making sure to participate in the house-to-house ministry with their local congregation each week. Some zones may ask volunteers to limit initial sign-up to allow others to participate.

3. How can I serve as a keyman?

We always need qualified brothers to help as keymen. If you participate regularly (monthly if possible) and would like to reach out as a keyman, please speak with your Zone Contact. Brothers who are not serving as Elders or Ministerial Servants must be approved by their local Elders before receiving keyman training.

4. Can I join a friend to do a SMPW shift in another CLT zone?

Yes, your friend should contact their Zone Scheduling Contact as far in advance as possible. They can coordinate for you to join a shift.

5. What if my circumstances allow me to regularly do shifts in another CLT zone?

While we recommend working the locations you've been assigned, if you have unique circumstances where it would be better to regularly support a different zone, you can email the details of your situation to your Zone Contact.

6. Who do I contact if I want to do SMPW shifts in another program within the United States - like Myrtle Beach, New York, Los Angeles?

Please send an email to SMPWCLT@gmail.com with your request. Please include the dates, if you would like to work with a specific volunteer or a specific location. Do this as far in advance as possible. Please remember it may not always be possible to fill your request.

7. I have friends or family visiting; can they join me in SMPW?

If your friends are approved SMPW volunteers in their city they must be scheduled as a guest in our city. Please send an email to SMPWCLT@gmail.com with the name and contact info of your friend(s), what SMPW program they are in, and the dates of their visit. Please do this as far in advance as possible.

8. I moved to a new congregation what do I need to do?

It is very important that you fill out an updated S-73 Application for SMPW and submit to your new Congregation Service Committee as soon as possible to avoid being deactivated. When answering question #9 mark "yes" and list the Zone/City you worked in. If you have moved to another congregation in the CLT program, you might also write "Moved Congregation".

9. Who do I notify if my appointment status changes as a Pioneer, Ministerial Servant, or Elder?

Please send an email with details of your change to your Zone Contact, or to SMPWCLT@gmail.com. We will update your Locust profile accordingly.

10. How do I update my photo?

It's important to keep your photo up to date so other volunteers can identify you. Please email your new photo to SMPW.CLT.IT@gmail.com

11. How do I sign in to TCS (Telephone Contact System)?

New volunteers will usually receive an invitation email within a few months after training. It's important to sign in regularly to keep your account active – we recommend each month. If your account is deactivated, please email SMPW.CLT.IT@gmail.com

*"At my guardpost I will keep standing,
And I will station myself on the rampart.
I will keep watch to see what he will speak by means of me
And what I will reply when I am reproved."—Habakuk 2:1*

