

Newsletter

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Please remember brothers, this newsletter should not be read out at congregation meetings or placed on the congregation notice board

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2014 SEMINAR

Every three years we hold a seminar with our management teams, trustees and selected guests. This is a way for us to spend some time together away from the workplace to look at what we have achieved and discuss further opportunities for improvement in the future.

The seminar was held in May and approximately 90 people were in attendance. This included delegates from ten countries, who attended at their own expense and wished to share their progress and troubleshoot various problems they have come up against in trying to care for the elderly.

Many face the same challenges. In this economical climate, financial issues were at the fore, but also the time consuming work of finding an appropriate building or land. It can be very frustrating when the desire to care for people is hindered by massive holdups and progress seems very slow. To illustrate the patience needed, one speaker used the example of how long it takes for a tiny acorn to produce a fine tree. A brother from one country pointed out, we are not in this to make



money, we just want to look after our brothers and sisters in need. He also commented that the seminar was invaluable to them just starting out, as they needed people they could trust for the right information who understood the objective of looking after Jehovah's Witnesses and what was involved in that.

The theme of the seminar was: "Spiritually Renewed Even in Old Age" based on Psalms 71:9; 92:14. Emphasis was put on how vital family worship is in every home and our managers shared how they accomplish this and what spiritual activities are available. This included video links to the meetings, personal bible reading, singing, and volunteers coming in to have spiritual discussions.

We then heard what spiritual qualities and principles are essential to develop in caring for the elderly.



The first discussion was "Love and Patience" and focus was given on what help is needed emotionally. Second was "Warmth and Humility" and how these qualities will make it easier for our elderly ones to communicate with us and tell us what they need. Next was "Cheerfulness", ways we can promote this within the home despite dealing with emotionally difficult situations. Finally we discussed how important it is to "Continue Steadfast as in Seeing the One Who is Invisible" and how this applies in our unique work situation. We were also reminded that our caring for the elderly is only possible if Jehovah wills it and how important it is to not let this objective conflict with other spiritual obligations or take precedence. We need to be sure to follow scriptural principles and be obedient to those taking the lead among us.



How Does the Charity Operate?

Jah-Jireh was founded in Blackpool in 1985 by a local brother and sister. There was never any intention to start a business and the details of how this grew from looking after one sister in the local congregation to what it is today can be found in previous editions of our newsletter.

Jah-Jireh (Charity) Homes was formed and registered as a legal charity in the UK in 1997. All the homes and assets were transferred into the charity in the year 2000, when it was deemed financially stable.

The trust deed states that our objective is to care for elderly Jehovah's Witnesses in their time of need and that the care provided is given by Jehovah's Witnesses.

We know that many of our readers are aware of how Jah-Jireh operates and our newsletters try to provide a glimpse of how some of our elderly ones are being looked after. However, we would like to take this opportunity to answer some questions about the arrangement.

What is the difference between a charity and a business?

A business is run for the financial benefit of the owners and/or shareholders with profit being the main objective.

A charity is subject to a strict regime of regulations by the Charity Commission for England & Wales and the objects of every charity must be 'charitable' as defined by law, which in our case is for the

care of elderly and infirm Jehovah's Witnesses. Therefore, to protect the residents and employees, and satisfy the requirements of the Charity Commission, it must be run in a business-like manner.

Do charities make a profit?

Charities can and do make a surplus but it must be used solely for the operation of the charity. Trustees are not allowed to profit from the charity's activities, however employees are paid for their work.

How is the surplus used?

Any surplus is used to make continual improvements to the standard of care, the facilities and needed equipment.

Who are the trustees?

We have 12 trustees at present (11 pictured), all are spiritually mature brothers who have a background in various aspects that benefit us as a Charity.

Are all employees Jehovah's Witnesses?

Yes. We currently employ over 200 brothers and sisters. It is not highly paid employment but many have worked with us for a number of years and have benefitted from various training opportunities which allows them to increase their responsibilities.

Is everyone in paid employment?

No. Many others provide unpaid, invaluable, voluntary support.



How are the homes managed?

Overall, Jah-Jireh is governed by the board of trustees, with the daily procedures overseen by the managing trustee. Each home has a Business Manager and a Care Manager who along with their management teams, supervise, train and direct the care staff.

How is Jah-Jireh supported financially?

Depending on a residents financial circumstances, we are entitled to receive a contribution to their care from the government. Often this contribution is considerably lower than the actual cost of providing 24 hour personal care. With this in mind, many brothers and sisters support us by donations, large and small, and that goes a long way to making up this short fall.

Who owns Jah-Jireh?

Jah-Jireh is not owned by any individual nor is it part of the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society of Britain. As a registered charity, it is held in trust by the above trustees. In the event of failure of the trust, any assets remaining shall not be paid to the trustees but shall be given to the Watch Tower Bible & Tract Society of Britain.

The Jah-Jireh Board of Trustees wishes again to remind our readers that we are a completely separate charity to the Watch Tower, Bible & Tract Society of Britain.