

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES / DISASTER RELIEF COMMITTEE

TRISTATE METROPOLITAN DISASTER RELIEF

INBOXBRANCHDRCCV19-TRISTATEMETRO.US@JW.ORG

8/25/2020

TO SELECTED BODIES OF ELDERS ASSIGNED TO THE COVID-19 –TSM DRC

Re: Food Distribution Program

Dear Brothers:

As we move ever closer to the end of this system of things, we know that the structure of this world will continue to crumble. However, it is with confidence that we echo the apostle Paul's feelings, "*Who will separate us from the love of the Christ? Will tribulation or distress or persecution or hunger..? On the contrary, in all these things we are coming off completely victorious..*" (Romans 8:35,37) To date, your vigilant efforts to assist your brothers and sisters with practical aid has served as visible evidence of Jehovah's love for his people.

In addition to the arrangements you have put in place to maintain a healthy spiritual routine for your congregations, Jehovah's organization has provided practical physical assistance with a Food Distribution Program. This letter will update you regarding adjustments being made to enhance the effectiveness of each of these arrangements.

Food Distribution Program

- 1) The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) states that in September their food program will now be providing larger boxes (30-40 lbs. ea.) which will include fresh produce, dairy products, milk, and meat products. This is called a "combination box". There may also be some areas that will have "fresh produce only" boxes in addition to the combination box.
- 2) The perishable contents of the combination box will require more careful and timely handling, which may require adjustments to your current food distribution methods.
- 3) This adjusted program will now turn its attention toward those with more defined needs. There is no need to survey or poll the publishers. Based on your frequent shepherding visits and the principles found in Proverbs 27:23, you already know those who may be dealing with a disruption in their normal food supply routine. Some examples are:
 - a. Those with financial hardship, such as those who are unemployed or under-employed.
 - b. Those with compromised health, including older members of the congregation.
 - c. Those whose circumstances limit their ability to leave their home to shop.
 - d. There may be others that also have needs based on a unique situation. We trust your good judgment to evaluate the needs of those in the congregation.

- 4) The body of elders will be asked to provide a count of the number of households from your congregation that meet the description provided in point #3.
- 5) An online intake form will be provided to use in requesting your congregation's count of qualified households. The body of elders is to assign an elder to promptly submit this intake form each month. Additional details will be provided on the form.
- 6) The Branch Office is aware that each box may include printed information from the government. This does not require any action by the congregation.

It is hoped that this additional assistance and direction will increase the use and effectiveness of both of these valuable arrangements. We again express our admiration for all you are doing. You are the men described at Jeremiah 23:4, "Shepherds who really shepherd."

Your brothers,
COVID-19 – TSM DRC

Disaster Relief Committee

c: Selected circuit overseers
Selected field representatives