Service Meeting Research

Week Com: 22nd December 2014

Monthly Theme: Send out “good things” out of the good treasure entrusted to us.—Matt. 12:35a.

Song 119

5 min: Local needs.

25 min: “2015 Theocratic Ministry School Helps Us Improve Our Teaching.” Discussion by the Theocratic Ministry School overseer. The school overseer may choose to have certain paragraphs read before considering them.

Emphasize the changes to Assignment No.1, the timing for the Bible Highlights, and the counsel by the school overseer. Have paragraph 7 read, and after discussing it, have a model demonstration of an elder conducting a family study with his wife and child, using the material on page 18 of the New World Translation.

Encourage all to take full advantage of the excellent theocratic training provided in the school and to make good use of the textbook Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education.

Song 117 and Prayer

(TMS Schedule 2015 Below)
HIGHLIGHTS FROM BIBLE READING: 8 minutes. For the first two minutes, a qualified elder or ministerial servant should focus on one Scriptural point selected from the weekly Bible reading, doing so within the time allotted. Also, whenever possible, the speaker should make local application, and emphasis should be placed on how the material affects us today. (Be 47 par. 2–48 par. 1) The speaker should be careful not to exceed the two minutes allotted for the opening portion. He should ensure that six minutes are set aside for the audience to offer brief comments of 30 seconds or less on what they have appreciated in the weekly Bible reading. The school overseer will then dismiss the students who are assigned to other classrooms.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1: 3 minutes or less. This is a reading to be given by a brother. The student should read the assigned material without giving an introduction or a conclusion. The school overseer will be especially interested in helping students to read with accuracy, understanding, fluency, proper sense stress, modulation, appropriate pausing, and naturalness.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 2: 5 minutes. This will be assigned to a sister. The student either will be given a setting or may select one from the list appearing on page 82 of Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education. The assigned theme should be used. When an assignment is based on material from the New World Translation, it should be applied to an aspect of field service that is realistic and practical for the local territory. When the assignment is based on a Bible character as found in Insight on the Scriptures, Volume 1, the student should develop the assigned theme, select appropriate scriptures to be used, and show what can be learned from the example of the Bible character. Acts of faithfulness, courage, humility, and unselfishness furnish good examples to be followed; acts demonstrating a lack of faith as well as undesirable traits stand as strong warnings to turn Christians away from an improper course. The school overseer will be particularly interested in the way the student employs the art of teaching and the way she helps the assistant to reason on the Scriptures. Additional scriptures that tie in with the theme may be included. The school overseer will assign one assistant.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 3: 5 minutes. This may be assigned to a brother or a sister. When assigned to a sister, it should be presented as outlined for Assignment No. 2. When assigned to a brother, material based on the Insight book should be given as a talk with the Kingdom Hall audience in mind. The student should develop the assigned theme, select appropriate scriptures to be used, and show what can be learned from the example of the Bible character. When material based on the New World Translation is assigned to a brother, it should be presented as a demonstration of family study or of field service. The assistant should be a member of the student’s family or a brother in the congregation. Usually, the school overseer will assign the assistant and the setting. If an elder is given this assignment to demonstrate the art of teaching, he may select his own assistant and the setting. Additional scriptures that highlight Bible principles that tie in with the theme may be included.

COUNSEL: 2 minutes. Following Assignments No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3, the school overseer should use the time allotted to give commendation as well as constructive counsel based on Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education. When the school overseer introduces a student’s part on the school, he will not announce the point of counsel that the student is working on. However, after the student’s presentation and some appropriate words of commendation, the school overseer should announce the point that the student is working on and state why the student did well on that point or kindly explain why it would be beneficial for the student to give that particular point further attention. According to the need of each student, additional constructive counsel based on Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education may be given privately after the meeting or at another time, either on the assigned speech quality or on another aspect of the presentation.

TIMING: No part should go overtime, nor should the remarks of the counselor. Assignments No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3 should tactfully be stopped when the time is up. If brothers handling highlights from the Bible reading go overtime, they should be given private counsel. All should watch their timing carefully. Total program: 30 minutes.

COUNSEL FORM: In Ministry School textbook.

AUXILIARY COUNSELOR: Whenever possible, it is good to use an elder who is an experienced speaker for this privilege of service. The auxiliary counselor’s responsibility will be to give private counsel, if needed, to elders or ministerial servants regarding any speaking assignment they may handle, including parts on the Theocratic Ministry School, Service Meeting parts, public talks, and conducting or reading at the Watchtower Study and the Congregation Bible Study. If there is a number of elders in the congregation who are capable speakers and teachers, then a different qualified elder may serve as auxiliary counselor each year. It is not necessary for the auxiliary counselor to offer counsel after each assignment by elders and ministerial servants but only when he sees that a word of encouragement or a practical suggestion would help the brothers to make progress.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW: 20 minutes. Every two months, the school overseer will conduct a review. It will be preceded by highlights from the Bible reading. The review will be based on material considered in the school during the preceding two months, including the current week. If the congregation has the visit of the circuit overseer during the week of the Theocratic Ministry School Review, the review should be postponed one week and Assignments No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3 of the following week’s schedule should be used. No changes should be made in the schedule of the weekly Bible reading or the presentation of Bible highlights. During the week of a circuit assembly or a regional convention, no congregation meetings are held. The material scheduled for meetings during such weeks should be considered individually or as a family.