

Letter to Bethel/Construction Applicant

Dear Brother or Sister:

We appreciate the spirit you show by offering yourself willingly to serve Jehovah and your brothers. (Ps. 110:3) By filling out the accompanying application, you show that you have a spirit like that of the prophet Isaiah, who eagerly offered to serve where there was a need, saying: “Here I am! Send me!” (Isa. 6:8) However, before filling out the application, we encourage you to give prayerful consideration to the following information.

Depending on the needs of the organization, you may be invited to serve at Bethel or in the construction of a theocratic facility. If you live close to a Bethel facility or a theocratic construction project, you may be invited to serve as a commuter. Depending on your circumstances, you may be invited to serve remotely from your home. Therefore, according to your circumstances, you should be willing to serve wherever you are assigned and at whatever task you are assigned to do. This may mean that you will receive an assignment in a certain field where there is a need, even though you may have skills and experience in a different field.

We are confident that you wish to imitate the spirit of our Exemplar, Jesus, who came to earth “not to be ministered to, but to minister.” (Matt. 20:28) His priority was making sure that God’s will take place and not his own. (Luke 22:42) No doubt you have already found the joy that comes from giving of yourself and seeking the advantage of others. (Acts 20:35; 1 Cor. 10:24) This spirit of self-sacrifice is very important so that we may serve effectively in close cooperation with thousands of other servants of Jehovah who work diligently to accomplish their assigned tasks.

Spiritual qualifications are of the greatest importance. Applicants should have been baptized for at least one year. Only exemplary publishers with good spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional health should apply. They must be wholly dedicated to Jehovah and demonstrate Christian maturity, having a zeal for Kingdom service. Furthermore, those who view material inappropriate for Christians, such as pornography, should not apply. (See the box “[Avoid the Snare of Pornography.](#)”) Additionally, those who have been judicially reprovved within the past three years or reinstated within the past five years do not qualify to apply. For certain assignments preference is given to elders and ministerial servants and to regular pioneers.

The general age requirements for applying are as follows:

- (1) Temporary or Regular Bethel Service (One year or longer): 19 to 35 years of age
- (2) Temporary Volunteer Work at Bethel (Periods of less than one year): 19 to 55 years of age
- (3) Theocratic Construction Projects: 19 to 55 years of age

Those who are older than these age requirements but who have specialized skills and training in such fields as audio or video technology, computer or electronic information technology, the legal or medical profession, professional design or illustration, plumbing, carpentry, the electrical trade, and so forth, are invited to apply.

Before completing the application, you will have the opportunity to view the videos *Making Yourself Available for Bethel Service* and *Be Honest in All Things* (Bethel/Construction Application).

After submitting the application, your Congregation Service Committee will follow through with its processing. If any information on your application changes after it has been submitted to the service committee, please update your electronic application by accessing my.jw.org. If you do not have access to a computer, then you may contact the branch office. This would include changes to your marital status, contact information, or availability.

If you are extended an invitation, you will be advised far enough in advance for you to make the necessary arrangements. If you accept an invitation, the Branch Committee reserves the right to determine if and when your service should terminate. However, it is our desire that you apply yourself to getting used to the routine and to developing qualifications that will make you more valuable to Jehovah's organization. We sincerely hope that you will learn to love and appreciate whatever assignment you receive and to serve Jehovah without distraction. Thus, you will have a valuable share in the proclamation of the Kingdom good news.—Matt. 24:14.

After considering the application, you may decide not to apply at this time. In that event, please inform your congregation secretary.

May Jehovah's blessing continue with you as you continue sharing zealously in the disciple-making work in your part of the field.—Matt. 28:19, 20.

Your brothers,

Branch Committee

Avoid the Snare of Pornography

We sincerely appreciate your self-sacrificing spirit. Your desire to expand your service and support Kingdom interests more fully is truly commendable. The attitude you display is far different from that of the majority of mankind today. In these "critical times hard to deal with," we live in the midst of a selfish and morally corrupt world. (2 Tim. 3:1) Therefore, we must be alert to shun any activity that could cause us to lose our clean standing before Jehovah.—Rom. 12:1.

The application includes a question inquiring whether you have viewed "*pornography in printed form, on the Internet, or otherwise.*" A person may have had a problem with pornography in the past but since then may have overcome this unclean habit. Such ones are to be commended. They have taken the necessary steps to strengthen their relationship with Jehovah.

Why is pornography such a danger? At Matthew 5:28, Jesus said that "everyone who keeps on looking at a woman so as to have a passion for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart." Pornography is designed to stimulate the sort of immoral thoughts that Jesus warned against. Reading or viewing pornography goes directly contrary to the divine direction: "Deaden, therefore, your body members that are on the earth as respects sexual immorality, uncleanness, uncontrolled sexual passion, hurtful desire, and greediness, which is idolatry." (Col. 3:5) Please see *The Watchtower* of March 15, 2012, pages 30-31.

Clearly, we have every reason to avoid pornography in all its forms. Therefore, if you have viewed any type of pornography within the time period specified on your application, please do not apply at this time. We urge you to seek the help of your congregation elders right away. Jehovah has appointed these loving spiritual shepherds to care for you and assist you with any challenge you may face.—Jas. 5:14-16.

We love you for the good work you are doing. More importantly, Jehovah rejoices in your course of integrity.—**Read Proverbs 27:11.**