

  
**WATCHTOWER**  
Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.  
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October 28, 2002

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

Dear Brothers:

We are pleased to share some exciting news with you! At a special program held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania on Saturday, October 5, 2002, all in attendance were excited to hear of changes that will affect the printing work in a number of countries. The chairman read the following announcement from the Governing Body:

“We are pleased to inform you of arrangements made by the Governing Body to simplify our printing operations. Some of these have already gone into effect; others will be implemented in coming months.

“On September 1, 2001, seven brothers from different parts of the world were selected to serve as a *Printing Study Group*. The Governing Body asked that these brothers recommend how we could use our existing facilities worldwide to a greater degree. On October 17, 2001, the Governing Body gave approval to regionalize our printing for various geographic areas – Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and South America. Regional printing went into operation at the beginning of 2002 and is proving effective.

“The *Printing Study Group*, under the direction of the Governing Body, has also looked at paper buying worldwide. Most of the printing branches are now benefiting from unified paper buying. This has already saved us millions of dollars and we will continue to see additional savings in the future. Consideration is also being given to centralizing the buying of other printing supplies.

“Because of regional printing, more of our book production will now be cared for outside the United States. Plans are under way to transfer our remaining printing and book binding activities from Brooklyn to Walkill. By constructing an extension to the present factory at Walkill, we will be able to build an efficient printing and shipping facility. This will allow us to install new equipment resulting in considerable savings of money and manpower. We are happy to inform you that on Tuesday, September 3, 2002, the town board approved our application for the limited expansion at Walkill. We hope that this expansion will be completed early in 2004.

“All of this should result in our being able to provide whatever is required for the Kingdom work with less personnel and more savings of dedicated funds, in accord with the directive from the Governing Body. We thank Jehovah for the way in which he has already blessed our efforts in this matter.”

The above announcement no doubt raises a number of questions. In order to give further clarification to the announcement and to let you know what is being contemplated, we have endeavored to address some of the major questions below:

*What will this adjustment mean for the operations at Brooklyn?* The facilities in Brooklyn will continue to serve as the World Headquarters for Jehovah’s Witnesses and will also be used for other needs of the United States Branch. With the extended factory at Walkill, however, there will be sufficient space at Walkill to care for the production of books and magazines to meet the current and future needs of the North America region. Brooklyn will no longer be used for printing, binding or shipping. Therefore, in the years ahead the use of some of the buildings in Brooklyn will be reviewed and adjusted according to the need.

*How large will the expansion to the Wallkill factory building be?* With regional printing, a considerable portion of the book printing has been transferred to other branches to make better use of their current space. (Enclosed are photographs of some of the affected printing branches.) The Wallkill extension will be approximately 150,000 square feet and will enable all printing, binding, and shipping to be in the same building. Enclosed is an aerial photograph outlining the proposed extension. This expansion will be able to house new presses and equipment that could not be accommodated by the existing facilities in Brooklyn.

*What effect will this have on the United States Bethel family?* The above adjustments will have some impact on the family. It will be necessary to transfer some from Brooklyn to Wallkill according to the needs of the departments. So as not to increase the number at Wallkill, there may be a transfer of some non-factory personnel to Brooklyn. The end result is that the Wallkill facility's present residential accommodations will be sufficient to house the workers needed to operate the combined printery. In harmony with the self-sacrificing spirit of Isaiah as expressed at Isaiah 6:8, the willing and cooperative spirit of those affected with regard to these changes is very much appreciated. Even with all of these adjustments, there will continue to be a need for brothers to make themselves available to serve at Bethel.

*Will new presses and equipment be needed?* For some time now consideration has been given to replacing some of our older printing presses and equipment. Older machines require more maintenance and manpower to operate than newer machines. With the changes in technology, it is possible to increase our production significantly without increasing personnel to operate the equipment. Therefore, approval has been given to purchase seven new high-speed presses, two for the United States Branch and five for other printing branches. This will enable the organization to care for the growing worldwide needs for literature and magazines. For example, the worldwide demand for books went up from about 54 million in the 2001 service year to around 77 million for the 2002 service year. With new equipment and facilities, this increased volume will be cared for more efficiently. The Wallkill expansion and new equipment will require a multi-million dollar investment.

*How will all of the above be accomplished?* It will be accomplished with Jehovah's blessing and the willing support from his people. In the November 1, 2002, issue of *The Watchtower* appeared the article "Supporters of True Worship - Then and Now." On page 29, it stated: "Finding the necessary funds to finance our growing printing activities, relief efforts, and numerous other services performed around the globe may at times be overwhelming." Reference was then made to the repairing of the huge wall of Jerusalem and how this was accomplished with many willing families. The article then added, "Likewise today, finding the considerable means to carry out our worldwide activities will remain within reach if each one of us continues to care for a portion of the work." Thus, your contributions to the Worldwide Work will be used to make these necessary changes possible.

There is much evidence of Jehovah's blessing on the work of his people. Here in the United States Branch territory, it was reported that we had a fine increase of three percent for the 2002 service year! May all of us keep fully occupied in the work yet to be done before the impending conclusion of this system of things. Your willing and whole-hearted support is much appreciated. We send you our warm love.

Your brothers,

*Watchtower B. V. Society*  
OF NEW YORK, INC.

Note: The above letter should be read to the congregation at the first service meeting after receipt, and then the enclosed pictures may be placed on the Information Board for two weeks.