

  
**WATCHTOWER**  
Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.  
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December 19, 2009

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

Re: 2010 Bethel visitors information

Dear Brothers:

At Psalm 122:1 the psalmist wrote: “I rejoiced when they were saying to me: ‘To the house of Jehovah let us go.’” Many have made similar expressions regarding their visit and tour of the World Headquarters and the United States branch facilities in Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York. Perhaps you were one of the 65,126 who visited during the 2009 service year. If you have not yet had the opportunity to tour, or if you would like to visit again, we cordially invite you to do so.

**Tour hours:** The facilities at Bethel are available for tours from Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. As a reminder, tours are no longer available on Saturday mornings. Additionally, the branch facilities in Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill will be closed on March 30, 2010 (Memorial). No tours will be offered on May 7, 2010 (spring cleaning).

**Large groups:** If traveling with a small group, there is no need to call in advance, since tours begin every half hour. However, if your group includes 20 or more persons, the group coordinator should obtain a copy of the *Watchtower Tour Group Information* form from a member of the Congregation Service Committee. The completed form should be returned to the branch office at least three weeks in advance of your visit. The Central Tour Desk can also assist in arranging your itinerary so as to reduce the waiting time for a tour during busy periods.

**Dress and grooming:** At all times our dress and grooming should reflect the decency and dignity that befit servants of Jehovah God. The book *Organized to Do Jehovah’s Will*, page 138, states: “When visiting any of the branch offices of Jehovah’s Witnesses . . . our dress, grooming, and conduct should be similar to what is expected of us when attending meetings for worship at the Kingdom Hall.” So when visiting Bethel, ask yourself: ‘Is my dress and grooming modest?’ (Compare Micah 6:8.) ‘Would others be distracted or offended by my appearance? Am I setting the proper example for others who may be visiting for the first time?’ Before you plan your visit it would be good to review the brochure *Dress & Grooming for Visitors Touring Bethel* that was sent with the letter dated March 6, 2008, to all congregations. Please check with a member of the service committee in this regard.

Our clothing should have a positive influence on others as to how they view the true worship of Jehovah. However, it has been noted that when visiting Bethel, some tend to be extremely casual in their dress. Such dress is not appropriate when visiting any of the Bethel homes. In this matter, as in all other aspects of our Christian life, we desire to maintain the same high standards that distinguish God’s people from the world by our doing all things for God’s glory. (Rom. 12:2; 1 Cor. 10:31) It is also good to speak with our Bible students and others who

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may be visiting Bethel for the first time and remind them of the importance of giving attention to proper dress and grooming.

**Update regarding the Jersey City Assembly Hall:** For many years, tours of the Assembly Hall located in Jersey City, New Jersey, have been arranged through the United States branch office. However, as of January 1, 2010, tours of the Assembly Hall will no longer be scheduled by the Central Tour Desk.

**Lodging and car rental information:** If you would like to visit sometime during the upcoming year, please see a member of the service committee. He has been provided with information, including the *2010 Bethel Visitors Lodging and Car Rental List*, that will be useful to you in preparing for your visit.

We are confident that your visit to Bethel will prove to be both encouraging and motivating. May Jehovah continue to bless your efforts in serving his Kingdom interests.

Your brothers,

  
OF NEW YORK, INC.

PS to Congregation Service Committee:

At the next Service Meeting, please arrange for an announcement to be made to the congregation that a letter on the above-noted subject has been posted on the information board. **It should also be announced that as of January 1, 2010, tours of the Jersey City Assembly Hall will no longer be scheduled by the Central Tour Desk.**

The *2010 Bethel Visitors Lodging and Car Rental List*, *Instructions to Consider With Those Planning to Visit or Tour Bethel*, *Highlights of Touring the World Headquarters and the United States Branch Facilities*, the *Watchtower Tour Group Information* form, the *Patterson Inn Room Request* form, and a copy of this letter should be placed in the congregation file along with other material related to visiting Bethel. Thereafter, if a publisher would like to visit and tour Bethel, a member of the service committee should consider the enclosed information with the individual:

- *Instructions to Consider With Those Planning to Visit or Tour Bethel* (Please note the emphasis being given to dress and grooming in the instruction sheet provided and in the brochure *Dress & Grooming for Visitors Touring Bethel* when meeting with those who wish to visit and tour.)
- *2010 Bethel Visitors Lodging and Car Rental List* (On January 1, 2010, please destroy all *Bethel Visitors Lodging and Car Rental Lists* from previous years. The secretary should remind all who review the *2010 Bethel Visitors Lodging and Car Rental List* to follow the guidelines at the top of the first page of the list.)
- *Patterson Inn Room Request* form (If additional forms are needed, you may make copies or they may be printed from the jw.org Web site. These forms are effective as of November 1, 2009. Therefore, please discard all copies of the previous form.)