

## ‘STRENGTHEN YOUR HANDS FOR THE GOOD WORK’

### ANCIENT AND MODERN-DAY THEOCRATIC BUILDING PROJECTS (3 min.)

A century and a half after the destruction of Jerusalem in 607 B.C.E., the walls of Jerusalem were still in ruins

Nehemiah rallied his fellow Israelites and stimulated them to action [Read Nehemiah 2:17, 18]

The people “strengthened their hands for the good work,” and completed the wall in just 52 days (Ne 4:6; 6:15)

With the help of the holy spirit and the added hands of so many workers giving their time and energy, a seemingly overwhelming task was accomplished

It is thrilling to see the expansion of true worship just as Jehovah promised (Isa 60:22)

To help care for the needs of the worldwide field, an extensive construction project is just beginning in the United States

Construction of the future home of the world headquarters of Jehovah’s Witnesses at Warwick, New York

The work has already started and will continue for a few years

The property will include eight major buildings (office and services building, maintenance building, vehicle maintenance building, parking garage, and four residence buildings)

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE WARWICK PROJECT (4 min.)

Similar to the call that Nehemiah made to his fellow Israelites, there is a need to call upon the ‘strengthened hands’ of skilled volunteers to complete the Warwick project

There is a special need for highly skilled construction tradesmen (journeyman level or higher) who are able to assist as volunteers for one or more years

What types of construction skills are needed? (See “Trade Skills Needed for Projects at U.S. Bethel” that was included with the June 3, 2013, letter to all congregations in the United States branch territory)

In addition to tradesmen who can work in the field, for all trades we are in need of very experienced brothers or sisters who can read drawings and specifications to assist in the preparation of material takeoffs, purchase orders, and inventory control specific to each trade. Brothers with experience in construction safety, whether site or trade specific, are also needed

Those who are not able to serve for a year or more but are skilled in construction trades can still be of assistance

Brothers and sisters may also apply to serve for one to four weeks or up to three months

Those applying should have the full support of their family

If a married brother applies for more than one month, his wife must also apply

### QUALIFICATIONS NEEDED (3 min.)

Spiritual qualifications are of the greatest importance

[Discuss paragraph 4 of the June 3, 2013, letter to all congregations in the United States branch territory and some of the points on page 2 of the *Application for Temporary Volunteer Program* (A-19)]

Applicants must be wholly dedicated to Jehovah, demonstrate Christian maturity, and have a zeal for Kingdom service

Only those in good spiritual, physical, moral, and emotional health should apply. All should have the spirit of the prophet Isaiah, who said: “Here I am! Send me.” (Isa 6:8) This means that they view serving at Bethel as a rare privilege that calls for whole-souled devotion and strong faith

Those who apply need to be U.S. citizens or legal U.S. residents

Highly skilled construction tradesmen are especially needed at this time

## **HOW TO APPLY (2 min.)**

If your circumstances allow you to assist with this project for one to four weeks or up to three months, you may obtain an *Application for Temporary Volunteer Program (A-19)* from the local elders

Accompanying the application will be two letters that should be read carefully and prayerfully by each applicant

Upon completion, these applications should be submitted to the Congregation Service Committee as soon as possible

Congregation elders will promptly submit the application to the branch office

Those who are in position to serve *temporarily* for one year or longer would need to complete the *Application to Become a Bethel Family Member in the Worldwide Order of Special Full-Time Servants of Jehovah's Witnesses (A-8)*

If you would like to complete this application, the elders will be able to obtain one from the circuit overseer or the branch office, and thereafter they will process it promptly

## **BLESSINGS OF VOLUNTEERING (3 min.)**

Nehemiah left behind a prominent position to organize the rebuilding of Jerusalem's wall (Ne 1:1; 2:1)

He was richly blessed for his courage and self-sacrifice, and we can be confident that Jehovah will remember him for good (Ne 2:18; 13:31)

Those who volunteer to assist at Warwick may have to make sacrifices in order to help

Jehovah will richly reward their efforts [**Read Malachi 3:10, 16**]

For example, note the following comments from those who have volunteered

Daniel, who assisted on a construction project for more than three years, stated: "The difficulties are insignificant when compared with the blessings we receive"

A construction volunteer named Carlos commented on the blessings of working with other Witnesses: "We have become like a family. We eat together, work together, study together, pray together. We have formed very close bonds of friendship"

Prayerfully consider volunteering to assist with the project at Warwick

With the help of the 'strengthened hands' of skilled volunteers and with Jehovah's blessing, we are confident that this project will bring glory and praise to our heavenly Father, Jehovah (Ps 127:1; Zec 4:6)

## **TO BE COVERED IN 15 MINUTES**