

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION SHEET

Many avenues of service are before Jehovah's people today. A growing number have enjoyed the privilege of serving as International Volunteers on the International Program. This information sheet has been prepared to answer some questions you may have regarding this special form of service.

WHAT IS NEEDED?

Worldwide, branches must expand to provide literature and organization for the ever increasing number of publishers. Additions to present branch facilities or entirely new branch complexes are often required. The International Program has been developed to co-ordinate personnel assistance.

WHO IS NEEDED?

Spiritually qualified men are needed and preference is given to elders, ministerial servants, and pioneers. Accepting an assignment should not put a burden on family or congregation responsibilities. Brothers must be between 19 and 55 years of age and have construction experience. Invitations are extended to approved applicants only.

WIVES: They may accompany their husbands upon approval of a separate questionnaire/health record. They are given work assignments which may be in the following areas: food preparation, housekeeping, clothes laundering, or on the construction site.

FAMILIES: In view of past experience, families are not invited to serve on the International Program. Families desiring to expand their service are encouraged to consider the information in *The Watchtower* of August 15, 1988, pages 21-23.

WHEN ARE BROTHERS NEEDED AND FOR HOW LONG?

Invitations are extended approximately 60 to 90 days in advance and are based on requests from branches for specific construction assistance. Submitting multiple available dates is helpful. Applicants not receiving an assignment may provide new available dates along with any changes to their original questionnaire.

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS (SHORT-TERM): Brothers serve for 2 weeks to 3 months depending on the need of the branch and the brother's availability.

INTERNATIONAL SERVANTS (LONG-TERM): Brothers serve for one year or for the duration of a construction project. Often, brothers with many years of construction experience are needed. At least one short-term assignment, preferably 2 to 3 months, is necessary before consideration will be given to a long-term assignment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

TRAVEL: Brothers are asked to co-ordinate and finance their travel to and from the assigned branch. Some contact airlines directly while others choose the assistance of a travel agent. The branch is given confirmed arrival information and arrangements are made for brothers to be met at the airport and taken to the construction site. Others may choose to travel by car.

TO ALL CONGREGATIONS

FCI May 1, 1995

Page 2

IMMIGRATION: Brothers without passports are asked to please consider applying for one when submitting an application for international work. Passports are legal documents used for identification in a foreign country. Additional immigration requirements vary according to the destination and the Society provides needed information to those invited.

ACCOMMODATION: Brothers are accommodated at a variety of locations, including the branch, the construction site, rented housing, or private homes of local brothers.

HEALTH: Vaccination requirements vary according to the location of the construction project and local or national health departments can provide you with further details.

MEETINGS/FIELD SERVICE: The day's text is considered every working day and the weekly *Watchtower* study is conducted. Brothers are associated with a local congregation where possible and field service is encouraged and recommended.

PIONEER CREDIT: Regular pioneers are given up to 90 hours per month with verification from the assigned branch before completing the assignment.

TOOLS: Branches provide the needed tools. Unless otherwise directed, please do not bring your own tools with you on your assignment. This may draw unnecessary attention to the project from immigration officials.

APPROVAL: Please note that although your application may be approved, this does not guarantee that you will receive an assignment. Assignments are reliant upon the needs of the building construction sites who require specific skills for specific periods of time. You will be contacted only when a site requests your particular skill or when we require more information from you. Until then, you should continue as normal and not make any special arrangements in anticipation of an assignment.

WHAT IS ACCOMPLISHED?

Many branches have been completed and dedicated with the help of the International Volunteers and Servants. Brothers sharing in this work are encouraged as they promote and experience the worldwide unity of Jehovah's people. Many more branches are under construction or will be shortly. May Jehovah continue to bless all who put Kingdom interests first.

Your brothers,

REGIONAL PERSONNEL
CONSTRUCTION OFFICE, EUROPE

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