



We sincerely hope that your visit to Bethel has been a rewarding one. No doubt it has helped you to become better acquainted with the work that Jehovah's Witnesses are doing to aid people who are searching for a better future through God's Kingdom. May your visit with us be an encouragement to you in your efforts to learn more about our loving Creator and to live by his righteous standards.

Visiting Hours: Visitors are welcome to take a guided tour of our facilities. Tours are available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location:

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Welcome to the ESTONIA Branch Office of JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES



Introduction

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the Estonia branch office of Jehovah's Witnesses. We hope your visit will be a pleasant one. The branch facility is called Bethel, meaning "House of God." This Biblical name is fitting, for those serving here are ordained ministers who have dedicated themselves to Jehovah God and who devote themselves full-time to supporting the worldwide work of Kingdom preaching.

In over 230 lands, there are now more than 7,600,000 Witnesses of Jehovah, who are carrying out the commission Jesus gave his followers—to make disciples and to preach the good news of God's Kingdom. (Matthew 24:14; 28:19, 20) To organize this work, branch offices have been established worldwide—all working under the direction of the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses. The Estonia branch office supports the ministry of over 4,200 Witnesses.





A Brief History

The first branch office of Jehovah’s Witnesses in Estonia was opened in Tallinn in 1926. Later, beginning in the 1940’s and for five decades thereafter, the activities of Jehovah’s Witnesses were banned. In 1991, however, this situation changed with the official registration of the activities of Jehovah’s Witnesses in Estonia.

In the early 1990’s, a small group of volunteers located in the city of Tartu served as translators. Then, in 1994 the branch office was established at 77 Puhangu Street in Tallinn. Three years later, a five-story building at 81 Puhangu Street was completed. It contains living quarters, translation offices, a storage area, a garage, and two Kingdom

Halls, which are used by local congregations and the Bethel family. In 1999 the third part of the branch complex was constructed—a three-story building located at 79 Puhangu Street that houses the reception area of the branch. This building was dedicated in June 2000. Then, in 2003 another adjoining two-story building was purchased and renovated by Witnesses from Estonia, Finland, and other countries.

Bethel Family and Home

All Bethel family members are furnished with room and board and a small monthly reimbursement to assist with their personal expenses. Although they represent a variety of nationalities, they can truly be called a family because

of their unity in serving their heavenly Father, Jehovah God. As a family, they work together, enjoy meals together, and study the Bible together. In addition, Bethel family members personally share in the Kingdom-preaching and disciple-making work. They are assigned to serve with various nearby congregations.

Each workday morning, members of the Bethel family come together at the breakfast table to consider a Bible text from the booklet *Examining the Scriptures Daily*. A chairman presides over this 15-minute discussion, and members of the family are assigned to comment on the text. Following the discussion, the family is led in prayer, after which breakfast is served.

On Monday evenings, the entire Bethel family gathers in

one of the Kingdom Halls to study the Bible with the help of *The Watchtower*. At times, there are special programs after the *Watchtower* Study. These Bible discussions each workday morning and on Monday evenings are an important part of Bethel life. Each member of the Bethel family also makes time for personal Bible study and has access to a library containing the publications of the Watch Tower Society and other reference works.

A number of necessary services are performed at Bethel. For example, some family members work in the kitchen, preparing nutritious meals for the entire family. Others do cleaning, housekeeping, and the laundry. These assignments contribute to the family’s high standard of cleanliness.



Offices and Departments



Translation Department ➔

English text of the publications is received from headquarters in Brooklyn, New York. It is translated into Estonian, checked for conformity to the English source text, then proofread to ensure that it adheres to standard spelling, punctuation, and grammar rules.



Service Department

This department handles correspondence with traveling overseers, congregation elders, pioneers, and others. It also schedules district conventions, circuit assemblies, and special assembly days. In addition, it organizes the Ministerial Training School, makes territory assignments for each of the congregations in Estonia, and compiles reports of preaching activity.



Graphics Department

The translated text is composed into pages using the Multilanguage Electronic Publishing System (MEPS) developed by Jehovah's Witnesses. The composed pages are sent electronically to the Finland branch or the Germany branch office for printing.

Hospital Information Services

This department provides Hospital Liaison Committees throughout the country with the latest information on bloodless medical procedures. In turn, the elders serving on these committees make this information available to doctors who are willing to treat their patients without the use of blood.

Ministerial Training School class



Audio/Video

This department makes high quality recordings in a carefully constructed sound studio. These recordings include material for conventions, musical works, and Bible dramas.



Recording Studio ➔

Publications in Estonian Sign Language are recorded here.



Legal Department and Kingdom Hall Desk

This department provides assistance when it becomes necessary to defend the public ministry or beliefs of Jehovah's Witnesses. (Philippians 1:7) The Legal Department and Kingdom Hall Desk assist congregations in obtaining property and permits for building Kingdom Halls throughout Estonia.



Accounting and Purchasing

Great care is exercised when using donated funds to purchase needed items for Bethel.



Computer Department

Some of the operations performed at Bethel are done with the help of computers. Volunteers in this department install and maintain the branch's computer systems.



Maintenance

This department cares for electrical, mechanical, gardening, and other maintenance of the branch facilities and equipment.



Shipping Department

When literature arrives from Finland, it is prepared for delivery and shipped to the more than 50 Estonian- and Russian-speaking congregations throughout the country.

