

# Church of God, The Eternal

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## Announcement Letter November 2006

Dear Brethren:

Our greetings to all of you upon our return from keeping God's Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day once again. God certainly gave us the blessings of peace and inspiration in those designated places where He manifested Himself among us. We pray that you have been renewed spiritually and are energized to face the coming year with optimism and determination. It continues to be our purpose and pleasure to serve all of those scattered brethren around this world who value the revelation of God's Truth in this age. At this particular time in history, you are few, but the fruits you are manifesting certify there is substance to what you believe and practice. It is that light which God will use to burn more brightly as time goes on, if we hold fast to the foundation of our faith.

This is a very critical time for all of us—the time when we return from the fall Feast and must face our physical obligations in the world once again. During the Feast we separate from the cares of the world and focus on the picture of God's coming Kingdom, and we enjoy the richness of fellowship with others of like mind who help us to taste of that coming glory. We are protected for eight days in an artificial existence revealing the coming Millennium. It is artificial only because it is not yet the time for rest and release for this world which is still ruled by Satan. The world still groans under the weight of tremendous curses. God creates a safe haven spiritually for His obedient children to escape that burden for a very short time each year, and to enjoy a foretaste of the world tomorrow.

But then that special time ends, and we are plunged back into the weight of our obligations at home. We leave the Feast energized and encouraged to accomplish more spiritually, but almost immediately we find those old forces pulling us right back into our former weaknesses. All of our best intentions wind up shipwrecked on the beach. This is the common result for many of God's children. The shroud of darkness which was lifted temporarily smothers us again very quickly, and we are right back where we were before. Then we struggle through the coming months until Passover season, at which time we make another concerted, howbeit short-lived, effort to cast off that dark shroud to please God for the moment.

Does this sound familiar? Have you struggled with this kind of battle in your own mind? Are you already feeling yourself slipping back into the habits and mode of thinking that you were so happy to escape just a few days ago? Is that dark shroud of the world already engulfing you again and obscuring the light of God's higher ideals? If so, you are not alone. But that is no excuse to allow it to happen.

This is the time to engage the enemy of your own mind, and that of Satan who is working overtime to discourage you. He was probably not permitted by God to do so as much during the Feast, but now you are under assault once again. Will you lose all the benefits you gained through keeping God's fall Feasts, or will you fight to hold on to that spiritual energy and enthusiasm? Do not permit a return to the status quo. Cry out to God and ask Him for the power to defeat that complacency. Tackle again those habits and problems that have been vanquishing you, and refuse to give in. Refuse to let this coming year become like years past, with best intentions that eventually fall flat, without the fruits of real growth.

It is not too late. With God, it is never too late to make that change. In the aftermath of another Feast in which God has blessed us so much as a remnant body, do not let the miracle of that assembly become a vain thing in your life. Grab it with will and conviction, and refuse to be manhandled by your carnal mind. According to the flesh, it is impossible for us to prevail, but with the Holy Spirit which God has promised to give, nothing can be withheld from us if we persevere to produce those good fruits.

May you all find this coming year an opportunity for real growth and progress in the spiritual character God is seeking to cultivate within us. There is no better way to thank Him for the blessing of this past Feast than to use that inspiration as a platform for real growth.

## **Deaths**

Mr. Howard Meadows of Beckley, WV, died Wednesday, September 20, of severe coronary disease. His wife, Hazel, has been a longtime member of the church. Please remember her in this time of loneliness and adjustment.

We were also deeply saddened by the death of Mr. Derrik Quenzer of Vancouver, WA, who suffered a massive heart attack Friday, September 29. We all sympathize with his wife, Sharon; his daughters, Nicole and Carly; his sister, Michelle; and his brother, Matt, at this time of great loss. May they know our prayers are with them. Derrik was 41 years of age.

Mrs. Sharon Quenzer and her family would like to thank all for their prayers and expressions of love and sympathy during this difficult time.

## **Feast of Tabernacles Reports**

**Mindanao, Philippines:** Mr. Mario Roque is happy to report that they had 109 children of God rejoicing at the Feast of Tabernacles. That number jumped to 122 on the Last Great Day. There was one baptism and the blessing of ten little children. They had many activities throughout the Feast including a Bible study, basketball, badminton, and a talent night dominated by the children who rendered songs and recited poems to the delight of their proud parents. The weather was fine and everybody was full of enthusiasm. Mr. Corsino Canta, our minister in the Luzon area, eight more adults, and one child are grateful they were able to be with the larger group. He reports that it was a very awesome Feast and there was unity and rejoicing among the brethren. It was a very wonderful Feast for God's people in the Philippines.

**Suna-Migori, Kenya:** Mr. Isaya Owak reports that on the first day of the Feast, sixty people attended. By the Last Great Day there were 140 present. Seven children were blessed and twelve people were baptized. He reports that God enabled them to hold their meetings inside their new building this year. They were gaining more truth from the Bible and experiencing the love of God. He sends warm greetings from the brethren.

**Kandersteg, Switzerland:** The French-speaking brethren had a marvelous Feast in their lovely alpine setting. The beauty of the scenery was enhanced by much sunshine. All thirty people, including children, experienced a close and joyful family bond as they lived in gratitude to God for His many spiritual and physical blessings. The urgency of our preparation for the trials which are still ahead of us was emphasized in the sermons. The authorities of the community of Kandersteg chose to give special honor to Church of God, The Eternal for having come to Kandersteg for thirty years. For the entire Feast this year, they made the hall for services available to the church free of charge. Also, the owner of the restaurant offered an exciting afternoon excursion in the mountains with some refreshments. All send their heartfelt love to their brethren in the other parts of the world and continue to remember them in their prayers.

**Lydenburg, Mpumalanga, South Africa:** Mr. Louis Nel sends greetings to all the brethren and wishes we could all be together during the Feast of Tabernacles. He reports that their Feast was a real blessing on all levels: comfortable accommodations, tranquil and picturesque setting, enjoyable fellowship, and spiritual food most satisfying and challenging. At the resort where they were staying they enjoyed a variety of activities including swimming, mini-golf, billiards, badminton and table tennis. There were also a number of scenic drives, some historical sites and natural wonders in the area. A great time was had by all. The van der Bank and Nel families send their loving regards to all the brethren.

**Port Sorrell, Tasmania, Australia:** Our small group of Australian brethren who gathered in Tasmania reported having a very enjoyable and inspiring Feast. They were blessed with peace and unity, and enjoyed the prerecorded Feast messages very much.

## Trip Schedule

November 18  
December 16  
December 23

Mindanao, Philippines  
Burnie, Australia  
Sydney, Australia

## Tape Schedule

Tape #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-JB 80-18	09-14-06	11-04-06	A Survey of the Book of Job #18 Job's Second Reply to Eliphaz—Part 2
WSE-JB 80-19	09-28-06	11-11-06	A Survey of the Book of Job #19 Bildad's Second Speech
HFT-RC 86-2-1	09-28-06	11-18-06	All About Our God #1
HFT-RC 86-2-2	10-26-06	11-25-06	All About Our God #2
HFT-RC 86-4-3	10-26-06	12-02-06	All About Our God #3
WSE-JB 80-20	11-16-06	12-09-06	A Survey of the Book of Job #20 Job's Second Reply to Bildad
WSE-JB 80-21	11-16-06	12-16-06	A Survey of the Book of Job #21 Zophar's Last Speech

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby