

## Announcement Letter July 2010

Dear Brethren:

Thank you for the opportunity to address you again as dear friends and brethren in the Body of Jesus Christ in this month's letter. We pray that you are enduring well your personal struggles in this life and finding continuing inspiration in the hope of your precious calling. What people are more blessed than those called now to prepare for the glory of Jesus Christ and His new government coming soon to this earth? No matter what your trials and difficulties may be, you are truly among those most blessed, and we all have so much for which to be thankful.

By the time you receive this letter, the Feast of Tabernacles will be less than two and a half months away. Hopefully, you have already made your plans and preparations to be sure to be in one of those designated places to appear before God as commanded. If not, hopefully it is very high on your priority list to accomplish right away. For many, it gets harder each year to fulfill these commands, whether because of age, economic considerations, family pressures, or other concerns of this life. But the Feasts of God are *the sign* between Him and His people (Ezekiel 20:20). Particularly, the Feast of Tabernacles is a *command performance* which requires travel to one of those very few designated places, and it is unacceptable to attempt to "keep" this Feast at home.

What are those things which may be tempting you to stay at home this year? Some of you definitely have legitimate cause, especially if you are very weak physically, and simply unable to make such a long journey. In that case, God certainly understands and will not count your absence as a sin. But please understand, even if you fall into this narrow category, you will not be having "your own" Feast site at home. No one can create their own designated place for the Feast (Deuteronomy 12:11). The Feast is only where God chooses, and those are His very special places for holy convocation of brethren who leave their homes and come together into God's special presence. With all of the other annual Holy Days, this ministry *has indeed* appointed many more places—including many of your own homes—to be designated places. But not so with the Feast of Tabernacles. If you have a legitimate reason for not being there, God knows it and will not hold you responsible. But never think that you can then have your own Feast apart. Resign yourself either to be at God's Feast, or to miss God's Feast, one or the other. And if you cannot attend the real Feast, then you also need to understand that you have no authority to use God's second tithe at home either.

Some in times past have thought innocently that if they could not attend the Feast, at least they could try to make it "Feast-like" at home during those Holy Days. Some, knowing that God says we cannot keep the Feast "at home," have even moved into a nearby hotel, just to make it "more special." They use their second tithe for special meals, etc., to try at least to capture the "Feast spirit," even if separated from their brethren who are at the real Feast site. Dear friends, if you are one who has had any of these ideas, please understand that they are wrong concepts. God is very plain about the use of His (not *our*) second tithe:

Thou mayest not eat within thy gates the tithe of thy corn, or of thy wine, or of thy oil, or the firstlings of thy herds or of thy flock, nor any of thy vows which thou vowest, nor thy freewill offerings, or heave offering of thine hand: But thou must eat them before the LORD thy God in the place which the LORD thy God shall choose, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that is within thy gates: and thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God in all that thou puttest thine hands unto (Deuteronomy 12:17–18).

If you cannot attend God's designated Feast, then all second tithe belonging to God should be treated as "excess," and paid to God for the benefit of those who *can* attend the true Feast site. Is this perhaps shocking to some? It is the truth as verifiable in the Bible, and it is a confirmed part of the faith once delivered to the last-day church.

We do indeed attempt to provide sermon messages for those we are *more sure* have legitimate reason to be absent from the Feast. At least while alone, hopefully they can receive that recorded "meat in due season." But again, be very careful not to think that by receiving these sermons you have been given authorization for "your own" little Feast site. That is not the case. If you truly cannot make it to the Feast, you cannot make it. But then resign yourself to the fact you will NOT be keeping the Feast. You can avoid "violating" the High Sabbaths by not working. But it will still not be fulfilling God's command to come before Him. You will be dearly missed. Your brethren will be thinking of you and praying for you, and you will ever be much loved. Just please avoid falling into the trap of thinking that you will have a Feast at home. It will not be so.

With that concept in mind, what about those who may be tempted to believe they have "good reason" to miss the Feast, but perhaps do not? Are you sure God agrees? If you are one who is currently in a state of limbo, debating whether you can or cannot, will or will not, attend the Feast this year, consider seriously what God wants you to do. Forget human reasoning. Although difficult, God expects you to overcome *every obstacle possible* to obey His command. It is not our purpose to pass judgment in your particular case. That is always between God and the individual. But please do not try to

play games with God. He knows our minds and hearts perfectly. Be very careful that you are not allowing a personal *idol* to prevent your attendance. An idol is *anything* that we put ahead of God and His laws:

Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come. So that servant came, and showed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say unto you, That *none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper*. And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And *whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple* (Luke 14:16–27) [emphasis mine].

Brethren, what are those "crosses" which God has given you to bear, but which He intends for you to manage without making them into idols? Is your reason for considering missing the Feast really legitimate to Him? If so, stay home in confidence, knowing He will not hold you guilty. But for all of the rest of us, hopefully we will *pull out all the stops* to make sure we will not become those who let unconverted mates, children, pets, jobs, *manageable* illness, or especially *fear*, to keep us from fulfilling the command to convoke before Him. What are you afraid of? Put God first. Step out in confidence. That is what faith is all about. And that is what separates the true people of God from those whom He will reject. There is absolutely no reason to be rejected, if we simply resolve to put Him first, and then step out to do it!

May your Feast preparations be profitable, and with God's help may we relish the upcoming opportunity to celebrate again that marvelous arrival of God's Kingdom under Jesus Christ, the King.

## **New Moon**

The new moon, Ab (fifth month), will begin on the evening of July 11. The new moon day is July 12.

## **Camp Tejas**

This year Camp Tejas for the teenagers is July 8–19 in Walton, Oregon, and we are asking you to keep it in your prayers so that it may be an enjoyable, successful experience for everyone involved, and that all have safe travel to, from, and during their time at camp.

## **Yachats, Oregon, Feast Site**

We would like to encourage everyone to plan social time and activities with others during the Feast, but we would ask that if you plan any function in which you will need access to or use of the Commons building (the hall in which we have our church services), that you would let us know first, and as soon as possible. In this manner, we can contact the owners or city officials to get any permission, permits, etc. for the occasion. If you let us know early, all planned activities can take place without delays or last-minute problems to resolve. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **Excess Second Tithe**

This is a reminder of the yearly need for second tithe to cover administrative and facility costs for the Feast. We want to reserve adequate for an enjoyable and meaningful Feast. At the same time, we all must remember, to keep the Feast requires the rental of halls, transportation, aid to those who are deserving, etc. If we all contribute, the burden for each is relatively small. A huge thanks to those whose hearts and minds are willing. May God richly and abundantly bless you in all ways.

## **Second Tithe Requests**

Please be reminded that since the Feast of Tabernacles is earlier this year, requests for second-tithe assistance for the Feast of Tabernacles need to be in by August 15. Any who need assistance should notify us in ample time.

## Trip Schedule

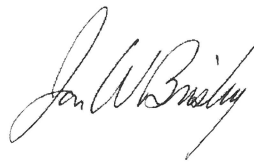
**Mr. Richard Litz:**

July 10, 17 ..... Eugene, Oregon  
July 24 ..... Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota

## Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSP-JB 125-2	06-03-10	07-03-10	Spiritual Murder and Manslaughter, Part Two
WSE-JB 22-111-25A	06-24-10	07-10-10	Fund. of Belief #25: Marriage and Divorce: Introduction
WSE-RC 15	06-24-10	07-17-10	The Hope of Tomorrow
WSE-JB 22-111-25B	06-24-10	07-24-10	Fund. of Belief #25: Marriage and Divorce: Marriage Is a God-plane Relationship.
WSE-RC 32-1	07-15-10	07-31-10	Do We Create Peace or Strife? #1
WSE-RC 32-2	07-15-10	08-07-10	Do We Create Peace or Strife? #2
WSE-RC 32-3	07-15-10	08-14-10	Do We Create Peace or Strife? #3

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby