

Announcement Letter September 2010

Dear Brethren:

In this last mailing before our gatherings together to keep God's fall Holy Days, we greet you with heartfelt love and appreciation. Wherever you are around the world, we pray that your final preparations to keep God's Feasts are going well, and that in spite of setbacks, obstacles, and temptations, you see it as an opportunity to show God you really do love Him more than any of these temporal problems which are tugging at us.

Our Jealous God has made these holy convocations an acid test to allow us to see clearly for ourselves what are our true priorities. He already knows our hearts, but we need to come to see ourselves as He sees us. Those who can do so, but who fail to put Him first by appearing before Him, take a very dangerous path. There is a reason God said that observance of His Sabbaths is *the sign* between God and His people (Ezekiel 20:12, 20). The command to appear physically before Him, especially at the Feast of Tabernacles, is a means to prove we have a real love for His laws. It is a command performance. Those who allow fear or any other obstacle to deter obedience are among those Christ said would cry, "Lord, Lord," but who would prove they do not truly love Him (Luke 6:46). Talk is cheap. May God grant all of you who have the physical capacity to do so to fulfill this command, and to enjoy thereby the riches of His loving favor. What a blessing are the Feasts of God, especially in the waning days of this tumultuous age when Babylon is getting so much worse. To *come out of* that world for a time and to be renewed mentally through picturing the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ is a blessing indeed. And to celebrate the arrival of Jesus Christ as soon-coming King (Feast of Trumpets) and the reconciliation of mankind with God (Feast of Atonement) is the ideal prelude to that glorious eight-day Festival of Tabernacles/Last Great Day. What a blessing God has given to His called and beloved children. May God grant you safe passage to one of those scattered designated places where He will soon appear.

Spiritual Principle: Specific Feast Protocol

As a reminder for many, but potentially as new information for a number of our newer members, we want to address a couple of issues that apply to our Feast of Tabernacles gatherings. Many of you do not have groups to meet with regularly on weekly Sabbaths during the year, and therefore may not be accustomed to certain protocols which we use to help facilitate smooth operations for our larger gatherings.

First, please try to be punctual to each convocation, and to be settled and ready for the start of each service. This can be a challenge, especially at the beginning of the Feast, because there are so many friends we want to greet. But unlike other groups, Church of God, The Eternal has always tried to set a standard for starting our services right on time. It is another way we show respect to God. In our two US Feast sites, because it can sometimes be difficult for the emcee to get everyone's attention when it is time to sit down, we use the piano as a "two minute warning signal." When you hear the piano begin to play, that is your notice that you need to find your seat quickly so we can begin right on time. In the Eugene church, we call this "sit down music." It is a system which has worked very well over the years. There are twelve services during an eight-day period at the Feast, so your help to be punctual and to respond when you "hear the music" will be very much appreciated by the emcees.

Secondly, a reminder that the special music during each service is just as important as any other portion of the service. It is when we offer a special offering to God in music. This is not the time to get up and go out of the hall (or come back in if you are outside when the performance begins), to shuffle papers, or do anything else which is distracting. Besides the issue of respect to God, we also record these audio performances, and we want the recordings to be as good as possible. Please refrain from making *any noise* during these performances.

It should go without saying, and yet, in this day and age it seems to be necessary to remind everyone to please turn off any cell phones before you enter the service. Please do not take the chance of having your phone ring during the service. The best practice is just to turn it off before entering the building. Why take the risk of forgetting? Being accessible by phone 24/7 is not a necessity, even though many have begun to think it is so. All too many in society today have allowed their phones to become an addiction. For the people of God it should not be so. Turn them off! Except for very unusual circumstances, the world will not come crashing down just because you are "unavailable" for a few hours. We all used to function just fine without cell phones before a few years ago. Just make sure you are not allowing technology to bring *the world* into the midst of God's sanctuary. Let us keep Satan's world outside.

For baptized men who will be serving in offering an opening or closing prayer during the Feast, please be sure you have prepared by studying the specific guidelines published in the January 2010 issue of the *Announcement Letter*. If these simple guidelines are followed, those prayers are an inspiring and enriching part of our collective offerings to God. If any of you have any questions, please feel free to ask one of the elders beforehand.

This is also a good time to emphasize the importance of the first service to open the Feast. Given that it is a night service after we have all traveled a very long way to get there, it is common for some to decide not to attend that opening service, or to time their

arrival into the area so that they cannot possibly be there. Just keep in mind that the Feast begins at sunset, and to really fulfil the command properly, we should already be there and ready to honor that High Sabbath when it begins. Our preparation work should be done. It is always possible that one of us might encounter unforeseen delays which might make it impossible to be there in time for the opening service, but we certainly should never *plan* for it to work out that way. Just in case any of us might not realize it or have thought it through, the opening night service is no less important than the morning service on the first High Day.

These are just a few reminders that will help make your Feast experience—and that of your beloved brethren—all the more rewarding. May you all have a wonderful and joyous celebration at these commanded Feasts, and may God keep you, inspire you, and protect you in His loving care.

US Feast Site Addresses

In Yachats, OR, the Feast will be held at the Yachats Commons, located at 441 Hwy 101 N., in Yachats.

In Townsend, TN, the Feast will be held at the Townsend Municipal Building at 133 Tiger Drive. This building also houses the police and fire departments and is next to the Townsend Elementary School.

As most members know, Mr. Brisby will be splitting his time between the Townsend and Yachats Feast sites. During the Feast several men will carry out administrative duties in his absence. In Townsend, Mr. Richard Litz will be in charge of the spiritual needs of the congregation—counseling, anointing, etc. Mr. David Brandenburg will be in charge of the physical operations of the Feast. In Yachats, Mr. John Byrd will be in charge of the spiritual needs and Mr. Delmer Marsh will be in charge of the physical operations. Please be assured these men are very willing to help and serve you in any way during the Feast. Their contact numbers will be given to you at the beginning of the Feast. Feel free to contact them should a need arise.

If you need further information please call the church office at (541) 344-8880.

Holy Days

Feast of Trumpets	Thursday, September 9
Atonement	Sabbath, September 18
Feast of Tabernacles	September 23–29
Last Great Day	September 30

Townsend, TN, Feast Site

Mr. Charles Armstrong sponsors a pancake breakfast for the church each year at the Feast in Tennessee which requires a great deal of preparation. He is looking for volunteers to help him in that preparation. Anyone interested in helping, please contact him at 401-941-4618.

New Moon

The new moon, Tishri (seventh month), will begin on the evening of September 8. The new moon day (Feast of Trumpets) is September 9.

Trip Schedule

Mr. Brisby:

September 4 Baltimore, Maryland
September 9 Stephenville, Texas
September 11 Stephenville, Texas

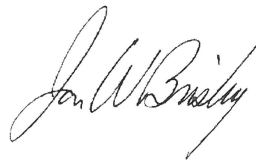
Death

We are saddened by the death of Mrs. Judy Berlin of Vancouver, WA, who struggled the past few years with breast cancer. We send our sincere condolences to her children, extended family and friends.

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-RL 11	08-05-10	08-28-10	I Dreamed a Dream
WSE-JB 22-113-25C	08-05-10	09-04-10	Fund. of Belief #25: Marriage and Divorce: The New Covenant Marriage
Feast of Trumpets	08-02-10	09-09-10	Holy Day Sermons
WSE-RC 45	08-26-10	09-11-10	Can We Endure?
Atonement	08-02-10	09-18-10	Holy Day Sermon
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WSE-JB 22-114-25D	08-26-10	10-02-10	Fund. of Belief #25: Marriage and Divorce: Two Become One
WSE-RC 12-1	08-26-10	10-09-10	Concepts By Which God's Truth Is Denied
WSE-JB 22-115-25E	09-16-10	10-16-10	Fund. of Belief #25: Marriage and Divorce: God's Marriage in a Song #1

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby