

Announcement Letter November 2011

Dear Brethren:

Special greetings to all of you in this first issue since our return from the Feast of Tabernacles. We pray that all of you who made long journeys to obey God's command to assemble in His presence were blessed with a safe return home, and that you were fortified with inspiration to continue your spiritual mission to achieve the very purpose for which you were created—to inherit eternal life in God's royal Family. As the called of God, you continue to be very dear to us because you are dear to your Heavenly Father, and that means you deserve our utmost respect and devotion to help you achieve your goals. It is a pleasure to serve you and to commit ourselves to your inspiration and aid, and that includes our efforts to make those assemblies for the Feast of Tabernacles a blessing in your lives.

With all we know thus far—as you will see from the following Feast reports—it appears God blessed every one of our assemblies once again this year with peace and tranquility. In these days of increasing economic and social instability around the world, that indeed is a special blessing. It also appears that we were blessed in general with a high level of unity among our attending members. That has not always been the case in every past year. God often allows us to face threats from Satanic attacks which forces our members to prove that we can respond with wisdom, balancing our uncompromising love for revealed Truth with mercy and longsuffering for some who may be weak. In some cases, divisive elements have been present at our Feasts which put a real strain upon our unity as a whole. But it appears that this was one of those years marked more strongly by sincere and relaxed fellowship, and we thank God for helping provide that insulating environment in which to worship Him. There is a tendency for ministers to claim that their people had "the best Feast ever." The reason is that they seek to create the perception that they are being favored by God. The rationale goes, if a group has a successful Feast, God must be smiling upon them. So everyone claims they had a blessed Feast, whether they really did or not. This ministry is not interested in political spin or seeking to project an image that may not be true. We admit that in our thirty-seven year history, we have had certain Feast assemblies which were fraught with tensions. But it is our honest and forthright opinion that such was not the case this year, and so it appears that God did indeed grant us a very special oasis of protection in order to make this year's Feast a true inspiration to all converted members who attended.

In addition to our thanks to God for His most critical role in that success, we would also like to thank all of you who did indeed go out of your way this year to serve your brethren in so many ways. There is no doubt that we have a very strong core of members in this little remnant body who truly values those revealed principles of God and worked overtime to pour yourselves out to help make the Feast experience of others very positive. Such selfless acts are always very touching, and we witnessed much evidence of that Spirit of cooperation and service. Thank you all most heartily for your own contributions in that regard. No matter how humble and private we keep our acts of kindness, the fruit of that attitude is always like a very bright beacon. Such light was manifestly evident, and so we thank you for allowing God to work within you through His Spirit to achieve such an inspiring result.

Feast of Tabernacles Reports

Les Rousses, France: The French-speaking brethren had a successful celebration in the new Feast site which God appointed for them. For over thirty years, they had kept the Feast in Kandersteg, in the Swiss Alps, but the unavailability of the meeting hall forced Mr. Aviolat to look for another site. After much searching, he was led to a small French resort in a range of mountains which form a natural border between Switzerland and France. Amazingly, the day before opening night, a violent storm struck the Kandersteg valley. The river overflowed with such force that both the road and the railroad were torn up. The only way to access the village of Kandersteg was by helicopter. There was no doubt that God had not chosen to place His name there this year. The brethren enjoyed the peaceful and pastoral scenery of the new site. They were blessed with good weather. Services and other activities allowed much fellowship. Their social included music and singing, a craft project and the usual cheese fondue. The attendance was twenty adults and four children. There was one baptism. All of them send their affectionate regards and remember their brethren in prayer.

Alaminos, Philippines: An email from Mr. Corsino Canta states that sixteen adults and children of different ages were able to rejoice and enjoy God's Feast of Tabernacles. They started the Feast with mild rain showers that turned to good and sunny weather for the rest of the Feast. They send their love and appreciation.

Don Carlos, Philippines: A most joyous Feast of Tabernacles was observed by one hundred brethren in Don Carlos, Bukidnon, on the island of Mindanao. The weather during the Feast was fair. The brethren enjoyed sports, social activities and sumptuous food during the church picnic. Two were baptized and five children were blessed. But the highlight of the Feast was the series of meaty spiritual food from the opening night to the Last Great Day. Most of the brethren were touched and requesting copies of the CDs. They left for home rejoicing that God had so richly blessed His Feast.

Yachats, Oregon, U.S.A.: There were sixty-four present for the Feast in this quaint coastal town. Many had transferred to the Townsend site this year, which provided those in Yachats with a very intimate, relaxed and enjoyable Feast. The weather was beautiful with mostly sunny skies and warm temperatures, perfect for walks on the beach and hiking. They enjoyed good food with funny and entertaining skits and performances for their potluck family night. A big thank-you to all those who participated in the entertainment. They were also sustained and nourished with much thought-provoking spiritual food throughout the Feast. They send their love and regards to all of the other brethren around the world.

Townsend, Tennessee, U.S.A.: In the beautiful Smoky Mountains of Tennessee a group of 142 brethren converged to enjoy wonderful spiritual food and great fellowship. Two new members were baptized. The weather was rainy at the beginning and the end of the Feast, with nice, warm days in between. The annual pancake breakfast and Family Night potluck were huge successes with deliciously-prepared food. The Family Night was topped off with very enjoyable musical entertainment and group games. They send their greetings to all the brethren.

Suna-Migori, Kenya: Mr. Isaya Owak said that they are very thankful that God enabled them to have peace at their site throughout the Feast. It was a very good Feast in which no one fell sick, and the peace that prevailed among them all could be seen in the faces of the brethren. A Bible study they had in the evening was cut short due to heavy rain. They had brethren from some new church areas, and altogether there were 170 present. They extend their desire that God bless all of the brethren.

Hermanus, South Africa: There were twenty-eight brethren who met in Hermanus, in a hall located in Fernkloof Nature Reserve. It was beautiful, quiet and tranquil. They felt so blessed to have Mr-s. Richard Litz visiting them. The sermons were indeed food for thought, and all were touched and challenged by them. Walks, hikes, a river boat trip, sea kayaking, strolling the rocky seashore, and, of course, the Ladies Tea Party, were also enjoyed. The ladies prepared amazingly delicious meals throughout the Feast. It was so hard to say farewell to the guests and friends and return to their normal lives. They give all glory to the Eternal for an unforgettable Feast of Tabernacles, so rich and rewarding that they can only say, "This was the best Feast ever!"

Port Sorrel, Tasmania, Australia: The brethren in Tasmania had a great Feast of Tabernacles. They very much enjoyed the sermons and found them very inspiring. The weather was a mixture of rain, clouds, and sun. The last three days were very nice. They send their love and regards to all.

2012 Feast of Tabernacles Planning in U.S.A.

We are happy to confirm that we are scheduled to hold the U.S. Feast of Tabernacles for 2012 in Yachats, Oregon, and Townsend, Tennessee, once again. In fact, confirmation of hall rentals in both locations has been arranged at least through the next two years. With this in mind, it is not too soon to be making your reservations for accommodations. While in Yachats the Feast falls outside the normal tourist season (assuring more accommodations are available longer); in Townsend the 2012 Feast will again fall during prime October autumn tourist season. If you do not book early, you may find it difficult to secure the place of your choice later on.

With that in mind, we would ask those of you who may be more flexible in selecting a Feast site to consider the Oregon site for 2012. As it turned out, those attending in Yachats this year seemed to discover that a smaller group had some surprisingly happy advantages, like the ability to get to know more of the brethren without feeling there were as many "lost opportunities." Larger groups—like the Townsend group this year—provide the outward "excitement" of a big assembly, but the drawback is that "large" does not encourage quality time to get to know brethren. There are only eight days in the Feast. The term "power-fellowshipping" surfaced quite often, reflecting the effort to spend at least *a little time* with everyone, but without the chance to spend *quality time* with anyone. Over the years we have had many ask why we could not just have one large Feast site in the U.S. The assumption is that a single site would allow everyone to fellowship with more people and provide a richer experience for all. That, however, seems to be a misnomer. In the years that our parent organization had thousands of people in one site, how many of those attendees did any one family get to meet? Very few indeed.

The reality is, the main purpose for having two U.S. Feast sites is the same today as it was when Mr. Raymond Cole first opened a second site in Townsend in 1983—strategic. The farther that some brethren have to travel to get to the Feast, the greater chance that some will simply not be able to attend at all, especially the elderly. In 1983 a number of isolated members in the eastern part of the country who had not been able physically to make it to the West Coast were finally able to attend the Feast. That is still true today, twenty-eight years later.

Therefore, with two U.S. Feast sites of *strategic value* in serving God's people, it next becomes valuable to *even out* attendance between them as much as possible. Why? It is not an issue of "better fellowship," as many of us proved this year. It is a matter of having sufficient people in each site to cover needed support services. For example, this year in Yachats, many of the baptized men did double duty in offering opening and closing prayers, while in Townsend we had many more eligible men than there were slots to fill. The number of volunteers available to participate in the special music program was also a disparity, not to mention the number of volunteers for technical set-up and management of the facilities.

Furthermore, in 2012 the Townsend site is going to have a special challenge with parking that we have not faced previously. It is these kinds of very practical considerations which make us hope for a little bit more balance in attendance in the future. On top of that, it is always nice to even out the number of brethren to allow the ministers in each site to cover more easily all of the spiritual needs of the group, like counseling and anointing. With very few ministerial helpers, it is a real help to divide those support resources as evenly as possible to serve the whole congregation.

We still do not feel the need to have brethren "sign up" or get approval to attend a particular site. Please attend where you choose. Even this year we were able to cover all of the needed responsibilities, howbeit with some challenges because of the skewed numbers. But with this generalized and very early request to you all, we hope that if you happen to be one who does not need to attend at the Tennessee site to avoid travel hardship, expense hardship, or to reunite extended families, perhaps you might consider Oregon for 2012? The Yachats facility can accommodate many more brethren for seats and parking than we have used to date, and it is a wonderful environment to keep God's Feast, just like Townsend.

November Monthly Letter

The *Monthly Letter* for November is an exact reprint of a letter that Mr. Raymond Cole wrote in April 1993.

New Moon

The new moon, Kislev (ninth month), will begin on the evening of Sabbath, November 26. The new moon day is Sunday, November 27.

Thank you from Mrs. Esquinas, Cagayan de Oro, Philippines:

We received your condolence card with the messages from the brethren out there last month. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. Your messages were all inspiring. We need them the most during our tough times. We are very grateful for all your kind words and prayers. Please extend our gratitude to Mr. Jon Brisby, and the rest of the brethren. Best regards.

All the best,
Edwina Esquinas and children

Trip Schedule

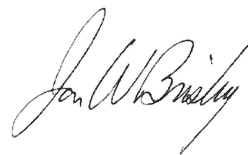
Mr. Brisby:

November 19 Somerset, Tasmania, Australia
November 26 Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
December 17 Don Carlos/Sulamay, Mindanao, Philippines
December 24 Alaminos, Luzon, Philippines

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-RC-27-4	09-22-11	10-29-11	Resolve to Live the Faith: #4 Create an Atmosphere of Love #2
WSE-JB 22-136-25-G5	09-22-11	11-05-11	Fund. of Belief #25: Marriage and Divorce: The Responsibilities of Marriage #5
WSE-RC 27-5	10-27-11	11-12-11	Resolve to Live the Faith: #5 Create an Atmosphere of Love #3
WSE-JB 22-137-25-G6	10-27-11	11-19-11	Fund. of Belief #25: Marriage and Divorce: The Responsibilities of Marriage #6
WSE-RC 27-6	10-27-11	11-26-11	Resolve to Live the Faith: #6 Be a Peacemaker #1
WSE-RJL 2	11-17-11	12-03-11	Peter's Preeminence
WSE-RC 27-7	11-17-11	12-10-11	Resolve to Live the Faith: #7 Be a Peacemaker #2
WSE-RC 27-8	11-17-11	12-17-11	Resolve to Live the Faith: #8 What Is Involved in Attitude? #1

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby