

Announcement Letter June 2012

Dear Brethren:

There is no more appropriate and heartfelt greeting we can offer you this month than the one written by the Apostle Paul to the church at Philippi:

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:3–6).

Your participation in this little remnant church, no matter how distant your abode may be, makes you part of that *fellowship in the gospel*, and your role is very important; please never doubt it. By having just participated in keeping Monday Pentecost on May 28—whether within a group or alone by necessity with a recorded sermon—you are part of that humble, howbeit bright, light shining in this dark world today to remind God's wayward children of the original Truth delivered to them in the twentieth century. One day many will respond and return to keeping the correct Pentecost once again, but in the meantime, those few who are holding fast are a critical link in fulfilling Christ's promise that the gates of hell would never prevail against His last-day Church (Matthew 16:18).

So now Pentecost is past. How do you feel about that? Do you relish the experience as a great blessing, inspired and grateful that you were able to be part of the assembly of those showing real honor to God on one of His auspicious High Days? Or is your feeling more one of *relief* that the Holy Day season is over, allowing you to "get back" to a normal routine?

If the Holy Days are a source of extra pressure and stress, that is certainly understandable, since it surely requires significant planning, effort, and sacrifice to keep them correctly. But for those who are gradually coming to value the things of God more than the things of this world, there should be a *transition* taking place in your thinking to begin valuing those annual High Days more than you once did. If that is still not the way you feel about it, please do not despair, and do not decide your baptism may not be valid. No, more likely you simply need more spiritual growth, *which is true for all of us*, no matter how long we may have been part of the church.

We may also become challenged with *new trials* which seem to rob us of the joy we once had in keeping God's Feasts, whether it be illness, family or economic problems, personal loss, or other difficulties. Rather than view this only as a spiritual failure—backsliding, leading to despondency—why not look at it as a new challenge allowed by God to *strengthen* your commitment to the spiritual vs. the material world? Sooner or later we will all be required to show that we love God's way more than the things of this world, and to do so under great duress. Some of God's children are simply entering those tests earlier than others. But your positive response to fight back against complacency and to maintain diligence in putting God first is not only a wonderful opportunity to show God where your priorities lie, but also to set a very positive example to your brethren of the faith.

Now that Pentecost has been completed, we look forward to the next Holy Day season, including Trumpets, Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles/Last Great Day. Are you planning for this festival season? In spite of the weights you bear in the flesh, are you fighting through the obstacles of mind to focus upon keeping those upcoming Feasts in respect and honor to God? As time gets shorter before the return of Jesus Christ, it will continue to get harder—not easier—to keep these Feasts. You may have to expend *double the effort* this year that it once took previously for you to be at the Feast. Are you willing to make any sacrifice, or does your commitment to put God first have a limit?

Always remember, the "sign" that you are in good stead with God is not your calling, and not even your baptism. The true sign which God gave is proper keeping of His weekly and annual Sabbaths (Exodus 31:13). None of us can be under that "sign" unless we are willing to go out of our way to be in those appointed places where He will appear to commune with us from Holy Day season to Holy Day season. As God has designed the test for us, no sooner has one obligation of convocation passed than we must begin planning for the next one. Except for a sincere and abiding love for that way of life, eventually we will become weary in well doing. We will stop getting enthused about the next Feast and may even begin to forsake appearing at them. Many have done exactly that in past years.

Will you continue under the sign of God's favor by proving that His salvation plan, pictured in those annual Holy Day convocations, is most precious to you? If you honestly do not "feel" enthused, take heart. You know it is right and good. You know also that you are weak according to the flesh. So stop giving in to your weak, carnal nature and cry out to God for the help you need to *get excited* about the Feast! Get to planning now, no matter how much you may not "feel like it." Admit your weakness and ask for help. God already knows your heart. We are hiding nothing from Him. Now is the time to start harnessing ourselves—with His divine help of the Spirit—to learn to love those things which do not come naturally to carnal human beings. Keeping these Feasts, season after season and year after year, in a right orientation, is a key way that God is proving our character over time.

If we understand the mechanics of this spiritual test and take it seriously, no matter where we may stand at the moment, we can each make progress to fulfill God's will and reap that ultimate reward in that soon-coming Kingdom under Jesus Christ. He has indeed *begun a good work in you [and] will perform it unto the day of Jesus Christ.*

New Moon

The new moon, Tammuz (fourth month), will begin on the evening of June 20. The new moon day is June 21.

Sermon CDs

This is a reminder for those receiving recorded weekly sermons on cassette tapes: Recorded sermons will be sent out on MP3 format CDs only, beginning January 2013. Cassette tapes will no longer be available. Please make plans to secure an MP3 compatible CD player or solid state media player (the latter is recommended because CD technology also is rapidly becoming obsolete). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Timothy Sherwood at the church office.

Scheduling Emcees, Opening and Closing Prayers

We are beginning preparation of printed schedules for the Feast of Tabernacles, so we need to know as soon as possible if any will be attending at a different Feast site than usual. We must soon begin work on the scheduling of emcees and those who give opening and closing prayers. We thank you in advance for your help.

Part of our preliminary work involves the music program for the two Feast sites. Any member who has attended one of our Holy Day convocations in the past is eligible to participate in the fall Festival music program. This year's performance material will be mailed out within the next few weeks to individuals involved. Anyone who would be interested in participating at either Feast site, please contact the church office.

Trip Schedule

Mr. Richard Litz:

July 7 Vancouver, Washington
July 14, 21 Eugene, Oregon
July 28 Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-JB 22-145-25-I5	05-10-12	06-02-12	Fund. of Belief #25: Marriage and Divorce: Technicalities of Divorce #5
WSE-JB 22-146-25-I6	05-10-12	06-09-12	Fund. of Belief #25: Marriage and Divorce: Technicalities of Divorce #6
HFT-TT RC 83-3	05-31-12	06-16-12	The Biblical Concept of the Ministry #3
WSE-JB 22-147-25-I7	05-31-12	06-23-12	Fund. of Belief #25: Marriage and Divorce: Technicalities of Divorce #7
WSP-JB 135-1	05-31-12	06-30-12	God's Omniscience and Free Moral Agency #1
WSP-JB 135-2	06-21-12	07-07-12	God's Omniscience and Free Moral Agency #2
WSE-JB 22-148-25-J1	06-21-12	07-14-12	Fund. of Belief #25: Marriage and Divorce: History of the Doctrinal Change on Marriage #J1

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby