

## Announcement Letter November 2012

Dear Brethren:

In this first issue since returning from the Feast of Tabernacles, we greet you all and express again our thanks and appreciation for your support and enthusiasm for this way of life and for this little remnant group holding to that revealed doctrine we love so much. We were blessed once again with real peace, tranquility and inspiration in all places where we gathered to keep that Feast, and we are so thankful to God for His kindness to make that miracle possible one more year.

The reality is, although we have been a resilient group for thirty-eight years—and such longevity gives the impression of inherent strength—we always have been very small and incredibly vulnerable from a physical (worldly) standpoint. From that view, our survival depends upon the contributions of just a few hundred individuals mainly scattered about North America and in a few other countries. We also have just a handful of leaders, many of whom are already quite aged. It would be very easy for any number of outside threats, let alone internal problems, to jeopardize our very existence. Over the decades we certainly have faced threats which could have destroyed us. Many other groups who likewise came out of our same parent organization have come and gone, being roiled by such threats and failing to survive them. Why have we continued when others have not? Why have we not only survived, but even thrived, in spite of enemies who would have loved to see us destroyed? And why are we still here in this most dangerous of times, not only holding on, but seemingly stronger than at any time in our four-decade history?

It is for no other reason than that God has granted His special favor to preserve us, to bless us, and to sustain us year by year. There is no inherent strength in us as an organization. We are at all times incredibly vulnerable and subject to extinction. Except for the continuing favor of that purposeful God to walk before us and to defend us, we would be scattered and destroyed in an instant. Dear friends, do you realize that our very existence in this current configuration is a perpetual miracle? It is so easy to take it for granted because it has endured so long with such seeming predictable stability. But please do not be fooled or lulled into a false sense of security. *We* are safe only so long as God continues to envelope us in His special blanket of protection, and we can never afford to be complacent or to take any of these special blessings for granted. We have not made this little group successful. It is strong and resilient only by the very grace of God who has walked before us and defended us against so many enemies on every side.

As we return from the Feast of Tabernacles—the end of one civil year and the beginning of a new one according to God's calendar—it encourages us to stop and to consider how much we have been blessed in past years, and how much we need God's special protection and mercy if we are to continue at all to thrive and to prosper into the next one. Who knows what another year will bring? We know only that there is a thoughtful plan being executed according to the will of a purposeful Creator, and that we have all been offered an incredible role in that glorious plan.

Hopefully, you have been able to adjust to your responsibilities back home after the Feast, and if you were among those not able to attend in one of those designated places, we pray that you will be comforted nonetheless, and in every case we assure you of our particular devotion and appreciation. Now is the time to wake up and to take seriously the spiritual task set before us. Regardless of how much time we may have left in this present world—or in the configuration of this blessed little remnant group—time is short, and we each need an abiding sense of urgency to redeem the time that remains (Ephesians 5:16).

## **Feast of Tabernacles Reports**

**Alaminos City, Pangasinan, Philippines (Luzon):** Mr. Canta reports that the brethren in Alaminos City, though very small in number, eagerly awaited and enjoyed the opening night of the Feast. On the first day they gave their freewill offerings as mandated by God (a.m. service), and listened to the messages of Mr. Brisby and Mr. Litz. All messages heard by the brethren were followed with a summary by Mr. Art Rabanillo in the local dialect for the benefit of those who have difficulty understanding English. Despite the effect of the low pressure in the Pacific, the weather was cooperative for the duration of the Feast. On the seventh and last day, there were sixteen adults and fifteen children in attendance. They all enjoyed the Feast with the camaraderie, sumptuous foods and sightseeing tours in Patar, Bolinao ang Lucap beach, Alaminos City, Pangasinan, overlooking the scenic and world-famous Hundred Islands. The children likewise enjoyed the Feast with their singing and dancing to the delight of the adults. But the most enjoyable part of the Feast was listening to the messages of Mr. Jon Brisby on his subject of (spiritual) growth as well as the new knowledge and understanding of God's Plan for mankind, especially the called-out ones. They all felt enlightened and happily returned to their homes with thoughts that God had blessed us all with the "meat in due season" and extend their warm greetings to all their brethren worldwide.

**Don Carlos, Bukidnon, Philippines (Mindanao):** Mr. Roque informs us that they ended God's Feast of Tabernacles with a very joyous "till we meet again" party. There were one hundred five attendees—three were baptized and one baby was blessed. They enjoyed very fine weather the whole Feast, which was full of activities. They send their love and gratitude to all the brethren who made it possible for them to enjoy this occasion through their second tithe assistance. They offer greetings and best wishes to all their brethren.

**Suna-Migori, Kenya:** A report from Mr. Owak sends greetings to all with hope that all is well and that your Feasts went well. They had a good Feast with one hundred fifty-seven people altogether though they had expected two hundred, but some were prevented by sickness and other things. Three were baptized and five children were blessed. They would like to thank brethren who sacrifice their second tithe so that those in Africa might keep the Feast and hope that God may bless them more and more.

**Hermanus, South Africa:** A loving and warm greeting from the brethren in South Africa. They were blessed to have Mr-s. Robert Litz with them, and so enjoyed their company, wise counsel and advice. His messages, so full of encouragement and inspiration, were an extra special treat. Mr. Brisby's series of sermons, emphasizing true growth since 1972, served as a great encouragement and a reminder of God's blessings to those who hold fast to the true foundation. The weather was fair for the most part, though cooler than they usually experience this time of year. Most of the ladies met for the annual Ladies Tea and shared ideas, thoughts, answered prayers, poems and small token gifts. The whole group went on a sunset river cruise. But it was the fellowship and the food that was enjoyed by all. There were great times of fellowship, shared meals and activities. They send love and blessings to all.

**Kandersteg, Switzerland:** The French-speaking brethren were privileged to keep the Feast once again in this beautiful mountain village. The weather was sunny for most of the Feast, with occasional rain and fog. Walking and hiking were enjoyed by many, as well as paragliding and rock-climbing for the more adventurous. The family afternoon was again most enjoyable, with a skit and musical entertainment, followed by a fondue dinner for the whole group. Mr. Aviolat was very thankful for God's intervention to sustain him during the Feast, which allowed him to preach every day. The brethren were earnestly exhorted to prepare for their future roles as builders of a godly society. They send their sincere regards to all the members of God's family and keep them in their prayers. The total attendance was twenty-seven.

**Yachats, Oregon:** Ninety-three attended the Feast in Yachats, Oregon. The weather was especially nice and sunny nearly the whole time. There was much socializing and many activities among the brethren, and the unity of mind was felt daily. The spiritual food was very encouraging, showing how far this remnant group has progressed with the constant help and guidance of our Father through His ministers. All were sad to go home, but many were already making plans for next year. They all send their love to the other Feast sites and to those who could not attend.

**Townsend, Tennessee:** The 2012 Feast in Townsend, Tennessee, for our group of one hundred fifteen was held in a lovely new location—The Barn Event Center of the Smokies. This beautiful hall provided us with the opportunity to have on-site meals between each double service and for the Family Night. Everyone enjoyed the extra fellowship time and a

more relaxed atmosphere on the Holy Days, and it was especially nice being able to have a catered meal on the Last Great Day. The weather was perfect for the BBQ on the Sabbath before the Feast when seventy members showed up at the Litz home, and equally lovely for the Pancake Brunch hosted by the Armstrongs at the Litz home during the Feast. The Family Night was a hit, with music, dancing, and games for the children and even an old fashioned storytelling by Mrs. Julia Litz. Two new members were baptized and added to our church family, and all went to their homes saying, "This was the best Feast ever."

**Port Sorrell, Tasmania, Australia:** Because of illness and other personal challenges, the number who gathered near Port Sorrell, Tasmania, for the Feast in Australia were very few this year, and yet those who attended were still very enthused and uplifted by the experience, knowing that they were fulfilling the command of God and appearing in His very presence. Our dear brethren there report an abiding love for that way of life, and sincere thanks for the messages of encouragement and instruction. We are likewise inspired by their resilience to hold fast to those doctrines and to continue to be shining lights for the real Truth in the Land Down Under.

## **Birth**

Mr-s. Kevin Sisney of Mahomet, Illinois, would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Olivia Jo, who came into the world a little earlier than her due date of November 9. She was born the morning of September 3 and weighed a little over three pounds. Despite her rough start, Olivia continues to grow and they hope to bring her home soon.

## **New Moon**

The new moon, Kislev (ninth month), will begin on the evening of Wednesday, November 14. The new moon day is Thursday, November 15.

## **Death**

It saddens us to announce the death of Mr. Darold Shimon of Maryville, Tennessee. Mr. Shimon died October 25 as a result of a massive stroke he sustained a week earlier. He was 73 years of age at the time of his death. We offer our sincere condolences to his wife, Wanda, and their children Julie, Terry, and Ginger, and their extended family.

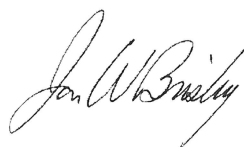
## Trip Schedule

November 10 ..... Modesto, California  
November 17 ..... Somerset, Tasmania, Australia  
November 24 ..... Sydney, New South Wales, Australia  
December 22 ..... Don Carlos/Sulamay, Mindanao, Philippines  
December 29 ..... Alaminos, Luzon, Philippines

## Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-JB 138-5	10-11-12	10-27-12	The Family Handbook #5
CL-2 36	10-11-12	11-03-12	Peace #7
WSP-JB 23	10-11-12	11-10-12	Where Is the Faithful Remnant?
WSP-JB 25	11-01-12	11-17-12	Does the Truth Come First?
WSE-JB 138-6	11-01-12	11-24-12	The Family Handbook #6
CL-2 37	11-01-12	12-01-12	Peace #8
WSE-JB 138-7	11-21-12	12-08-12	The Family Handbook #7
CL-2 38	11-21-12	12-15-12	Peace #9

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby