

Announcement Letter September 2014

Dear Brethren:

The seventh month of God's calendar begins near the end of this very Roman month, meaning that we are once again upon the threshold of a most significant period of time. Not only do we have the keeping of the Feast of Trumpets and the Day of Atonement right before us, but the requirement to travel away from our home areas to appear before God at the Feast of Tabernacles. To all of you who value these commands of the Creator and agree with His requirements for us, we greet you as the beloved of the Most High and express our sincere love and heartfelt prayers for your well-being and spiritual prosperity.

Given that the fall Feast is usually the highlight of our year, and we have planned for it and sacrificed so much in order to be at one of those designated places where God will appear, it is a time of excitement and anticipated celebration. No matter what age we may be, the Feast of Tabernacles has always been an annual focal point for the people of God, its meaning pointing to the appearance of Jesus Christ as King upon this earth and the glorious beauty of His Millennial reign to come. It is an event that takes us all out of our normal routines.

Because we all have such great expectations for our "Feast experience," there is also the opportunity for disappointments, if we are not wisely grounded, and if we have not prepared fully and completely. Below is a summary of basic points to help you prepare in mind, as well as physically, to have the kind of Feast experience that God desires for His children. (These points are summarized from a sermon recorded September 22, 2012 entitled, "Strategy for a Successful Feast.")

- 1) Remember what is the first—most important—reason we attend the Feast: to obey and to honor God who will appear in our midst (Exodus 23:15–22; 40:32–38).
- 2) Do not arrive at the Feast with lofty expectations of others. Come instead to be their servant, no matter what (Matthew 23:11–12; 1 Peter 3:8–11).

If you are coming with a chip on your shoulder, waiting to see if others will do what you think they should, you are certain to become offended (Romans 12:9–17).

Specific ways to serve others? a. If someone makes a mistake out of weakness, cover it; do not amplify it! b. Be on the lookout for opportunities to help others with specific

needs. There is nothing more fulfilling. c. Make yourself available for fellowship, even just to talk to one who might be lonely. Are you watching out for those who may get left out and seeking to include them?

- 3) Make a point to spend time with and get to know several who are not well known to you. Have a plan, or it will not happen. Also, avoid cliques! (Philippians 2:1–5).

Are you shy and waiting to be "invited"? If you are focused on serving others, you must go out of your way to *be where the people are!* Besides just the daily church services, attend the group functions offered, when possible.

- 4) Do not forsake your prayer, study, and meditation! Satan will attempt to attack. You need to be on guard to be at your very best, spiritually.
- 5) Observe the laws of moderation. All too many go overboard on food, drink, and lack of sleep (Philippians 4:5; Romans 13:13–14).

Remember that you are ambassadors for Christ in this community. Do not let people in the world believe we are undisciplined revelers (Ephesians 5:17–18; Romans 14:16–19).

If we each are very careful to follow this strategy for use of our time at the Feast, we can indeed have a most fulfilling experience, and likewise show all of those around us that we are not like the world. May your actions and personal choices show beyond words that you really do yearn for the Kingdom of God upon this earth.

Updated Personal Contact Information

Given that we are a very scattered fellowship, our connection through mail, telephone, and email has always been a critical means of communication. We try very hard to serve you, but that requires that we have updated contact information. It is often expensive to have mail returned because of outdated addresses, and inconvenient to be unable to contact you in case of an emergency because we do not have current phone numbers or email addresses. It is also less than ideal when an anointed cloth is returned to us as "undeliverable." Sometimes it may not be that we do not have your latest data, but that there is a clerical error in our database.

Besides asking you to try and remember to notify us whenever you have a change of contact data during the year, another way we have sought to solve this dilemma is to have each of you verify your current contact information when you register in person at the beginning of

the Feast of Tabernacles. For each family we provide a *printed sheet* of our most current information for you to inspect, and ask that you verify that it is all still correct. This year, we ask that all of you would please be *very diligent* to look at that information when you register, and that you make all corrections necessary. When we return from the Feast, the office staff works hard to update that contact information immediately so that we have the most accurate information possible.

For those of you who are not able to attend the Feast, or for those outside of North America, we ask that you also help us by communicating any changes to your contact information as soon as possible. It is very much appreciated.

Live Recordings at the Feast

Another housekeeping item for those attending one of the North American Feast sites: Please keep in mind the proper protocol for respect to God during the daily church assemblies. Many do not have formal weekly Sabbath assemblies to attend during the year, and therefore attendance at a holy convocation during the fall Feast may not be "familiar."

It is important that we each do our best to be quiet during the services, and that includes during the special music as well as the sermon. The respect to God is most important of all, and secondarily, it is an issue of courtesy to all other attendees who are there to be instructed.

Thirdly, we put a lot of time and resources into recording both the sermons and the special music to be sent out to our members after the Feast is over. Those recordings are an important part of the spiritual service that we provide for the entire church worldwide today. Live recordings of large gatherings will always include inadvertent sounds from the audience. That is expected. We are simply asking that all of you join us in doing your very best to eliminate as much noise as possible during the services.

This includes turning off all cell phones and other electronics which might make a sound at an inopportune moment. It also includes limiting traffic in and out of the meeting hall during the service. Parents with small children can help us greatly by bringing only *very quiet toys* to church services. In both of our US Feast sites, the meeting halls have hard floors that will amplify noise. Therefore, *Legos* and *Matchbox Cars* (for example) are *not* good choices for toys at church. Please do a preliminary test; if you drop the toy from seat height and it makes a significant sound on a hard floor, please leave that toy at home. Once again, we appreciate all of you working together with us to create the best possible results for these annual Feast assemblies.

Death

Mrs. Gayle Mark of Oakridge, Oregon, died August 25 of congestive heart failure. She was seventy-eight years of age, and a lovely lady. She will be missed by all who knew her. We offer our sincere condolences to her husband, Don, their children and extended family.

New Moon

The new moon, Tishri (seventh month), begins Wednesday, September 24. The new moon day (Feast of Trumpets) is Thursday, September 25.

Holy Days

Feast of Trumpets..... Thursday, September 25
Atonement..... Sabbath, October 4
Feast of Tabernacles..... October 8 (evening service)–October 15
Last Great Day..... October 16

US Feast Site Addresses

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

In Townsend, TN, the Feast will be held at The Barn, Event Center of the Smokies, 7264 East Lamar Alexander Pkwy.

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

Feast of Tabernacles—Townsend, Tennessee

For many years Mr-s. Richard Litz have been the ones to contact for housing questions or planning reservations for the Townsend Feast of Tabernacles. This year Mr-s. Litz will be attending the Feast in Yachats, Oregon, so they are asking that if you need reservation information or help in making reservations, that you please contact them before September 21. Their phone number is: (865)984-0649, and their email is: richardjulialitz@aol.com.

For anyone who will be in Townsend for the Feast, please know that Mr. Ryan Armstrong will be in charge of the Family Night this year. If you have an act, performance, etc. that you would like to share on that night, please contact Ryan at (401)864-0081 or by email at ryan.armstrong08@ymail.com.

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 requests for second tithe assistance for the Feast of Tabernacles need to be in as soon as possible. Anyone needing assistance should notify us in ample time.

Trip Schedule

Mr. Jon Brisby

September 25 (Trumpets), 27..... Stephenville, Texas
October 4 (Atonement)..... Maryville, Tennessee
October 8–12 (FOT)..... Townsend, Tennessee
October 13–16 (FOT)..... Yachats, Oregon

Mr. David Brandenburg

October 8–12 (FOT)..... Yachats, Oregon
October 13–16 (FOT)..... Townsend, Tennessee

Mr. Richard Litz

October 8–16 (FOT)..... Yachats, Oregon

Mr. Robert Litz

October 8–16 (FOT)..... Townsend, Tennessee

Mr. John Byrd

October 8–16 (FOT)..... Townsend, Tennessee

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-RC 59-35	08-07-14	08-30-14	Despair or Glory, Which? #35 Habakkuk Chapter 3 #5
WSE-JB 149-16	08-07-14	09-06-14	Prophecy Revisited #16 The Man of Sin #4
WSE-JB 149-17	08-28-14	09-13-14	Prophecy Revisited #17 The Two Witnesses #1
WSE-RC 59-36	08-28-14	09-20-14	Despair or Glory, Which? #36 Habakkuk Chapter 3 #6
WSE-JB 149-18	08-28-14	09-27-14	Prophecy Revisited #18 The Two Witnesses #2
FOT/LGD	09-04-14	—	Feast/Holy Day Sermons
WSE-RC 59-37	09-18-14	10-18-14	Despair or Glory, Which? #37 Habakkuk Chapter 3 #7

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby