

Announcement Letter November 2015

Dear Brethren:

Special greetings to all of you in this first full month after our keeping of the Feast of Tabernacles. We pray that the many of you who partook of those holy convocations in designated places returned home safely, and also that those of you who were unable to attend may be comforted and resolved with God's help to be there next year. In either case, you are all much loved and appreciated by virtue of God having called you and imparted to you His precious way of life. There is no greater gift that any human being could receive, and we remain committed absolutely to your comfort and spiritual well-being.

As some of you know, there was "much ado" within prophetic circles leading up to the astronomical lunar eclipse that occurred on the opening night of the Feast of Tabernacles. This particular full moon was referred to as a "blood moon" because the eclipse of a full moon often makes it appear reddish in color. The fact that this was the fourth such *blood moon* over the past two years—all of which coincided with either the spring or fall Holy Days of the Jews—became fodder for many writers who predicted significant events upon the earth at this time. Those predictions included everything from isolated "events" affecting the nation of Israel, to the end of the world for all of us.

One thing is certain, the world did not end. We completed our celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles with much peace and special blessing, and as of this writing the world continues to rock along as before. As has been emphasized to you many times before, we are not in any way suggesting we are not in the "end times," and we are not being glib in discounting the concept of the end of this age coming "soon." God warned very specifically against falling into the mental trap of believing things would forever carry on as before (Matthew 24:37–39, 48–51; Mark 13:35–37). We do not intend to do that or to encourage you to slumber spiritually. But we are showing our disdain for anyone out there now claiming to predict when significant events in God's plan will transpire.

They do not know! And apparently it is not God's will to allow them to know, even by *guessing* correctly. We simply do not expect that ever to occur. Therefore, every time another round of "prophets" begins to predict "big doings," that is the time we begin to "watch" for the fulfillments someplace else entirely.

How many of us are still attracted to the idea of having an *advanced tipoff* about specific prophetic fulfillments? The attraction is strong. But one of Christ's warnings to the

church was to avoid running to and fro, chasing after the predictions of these very false prophets (Matthew 24:26–27). It is not God's will to work that way. The just shall live *by faith*, not by having inside information (Romans 1:17; Hebrews 10:38).

Now that this latest blood moon prophesy has fizzled out like every one of its predecessors, will they learn their lesson and stop predicting? Hardly. It is simply a matter of seeing what shape and form the next tantalizing prediction will take.

If we wanted to, this ministry could certainly play that game. We could titillate your carnal senses with musings about the future. There are always opportunities to capitalize upon short-term tidbits in the offing. For instance: How many realize that this year is the end of a nineteen-year "Metonic cycle" in the Hebrew calendar? Many of you know that we will soon complete a "leap year" in that Jewish calendar—one in which there are thirteen months instead of just twelve. (That is the reason the annual Feasts of God were all very early this year, but why they will be very late in 2016, according to the Gregorian calendar. The insertion of an "extra" month will push Passover and all of the Holy Days nearly thirty days later than they fell this year.) God's calendar functions in a cycle of nineteen years. That is a fact. And there are seven leap years (or years containing thirteen months rather than twelve) within every cycle of nineteen years, according to God's inspired rules for that calendar. And the year we are finishing right now is not just "any" of those seven special years, it happens to be the *last one*, falling in the nineteenth year of the Metonic cycle. This means that when the new year on God's calendar arrives in April 2016, it will not be just "any" new year, but year one of a brand new nineteen-year cycle of years.

Does that fact make you excited? Does it make you begin to ponder what special and significant things might transpire in the next twelve months? We hope not. Because jumping onto that kind of bandwagon is exactly the kind of trap we are talking about! Brethren, please do not do it! When God's completed Master Plan is finished, no doubt it will prove to have included *many specific markers* along the way. Those markers are there, but God does not intend that any of us be able to "figure them out in advance" and thereby *undermine* the requirement of living by faith—stirring up the Spirit day by day. God wants us to be vigilant *at all times*, not just invigorated in anticipation of some particular prophetic scheme. Can we learn that lesson? If we can, we can avoid falling into (or back into) the pit that has deceived so many of God's called people in this generation.

May God grant each one of you His Spirit and the wisdom to discern what is truly important for our daily walk toward salvation.

New Moon

The new moon, Kislev (ninth month), begins Thursday evening, November 12. The new moon day is Friday, November 13.

Feast Reports

Suna-Migori, Kenya: Hello brethren, wherever you are on this globe. The Kenya Feast of 2015 was the most inspiring one ever. God blessed us so much with sermons and fellowship. This year, we did not have rain all the days, but there was heavy wind blowing every evening.

We saw God's hand in healing some who were sick. The sermons were touching every day. The total number in attendance were ninety-nine plus children. Others came from another Sabbath-keeping group who wanted to know why we keep the Feast later than they do. They were astonished to learn about the calendar, and they promised to be coming on other Sabbath days.

The topics covered were: *Who Are the Blessed?; Fear of the Lord; What Will You Choose?* (covering Solomon's request for wisdom); *Last Great Day, its Purpose; Tithing/Giving; The Return of Christ* parts 1, 2 and 3; and *Who Are the Faithful Remnant Now?*

We thank you for the sacrifices you have been making for the last twelve years to enable us in Kenya to keep the Feast. May God bless you and keep you safe in all you do.

Hermanus, South Africa: After a very wet and cold start, the weather cleared nicely and we enjoyed sunshine even though it was still a little cool. The fellowship, however, was warm and comforting. We were all honoured to be able to celebrate the wedding anniversaries of John and Lydia Dewey, as well as Milton and Lizette Bergstedt, and were graciously treated to a meal by the Bergstedts. Jonathan Boucher also treated everyone to a Steak Braai (barbeque) at their holiday home at Onrus. Then John Louis hosted a Burger Braai with an exquisite array of gourmet burgers with homemade patties and sauces. What else would you expect from the South African brethren? We also enjoyed a few shared meals at some of the many eateries in town. It is after all a Feast!

The warmer, clearer weather allowed for some invigorating and enriching strolls and hikes, and the views of whales frolicking and breaching in the ocean were spectacular. How blessed we are to be able to enjoy God's Feast in such an amazingly beautiful area.

The best feasting, however, was of a spiritual nature. The sermon series has cast a new, interesting angle on the Truths we have come to know and love. How interesting and how encouraging! The vein throughout has continued to be the necessity of overcoming this natural, carnal, wicked nature, and putting on more of the mind of Jesus Christ by the power of His Holy Spirit. How perfectly it has all tied in with the two-part series from 2014 by Mr. Robert Litz, about the roles of the second Eve, the future Bride of the King, and the two-part series by Mr. Richard Litz about overcoming the sins of anger and pride!

As usual the Feast whizzed by far too quickly, but everyone benefitted from the spiritual upliftment and physical relaxation, as well as the wonderful camaraderie and fellowship. Our regards to all our brethren worldwide.

Don Carlos, Bukidnon, Philippines: Greetings from one hundred ten brethren here in the Philippines! Everyone enjoyed very warm fellowship throughout the Feast. Nine brethren from Luzon and one from Cebu made it in time for the opening night. We were blessed with sumptuous food—not only physical, but especially spiritual—during the Feast, with the series of Feast of Tabernacles messages from our Director, Mr. Jon Brisby.

We had a picnic during the fourth day at Luan Luan Resort in Quezon, Bukidnon. The children enjoyed swimming, and the adults sang their hearts out with the karaoke. Most brethren felt that the eight days were gone so fast, but it was indeed the best Feast ever, as we always say every year. We celebrated the "Hasta la Vista" party with lots of games, food, and contests for children and adults. We had mixed emotions when it was time to say goodbye again, but we are looking forward to another "best Feast ever" next year.

Townsend, Tennessee: For almost every day during the Feast this year, the Smoky Mountains of Tennessee delivered clouds and rain, so the one hundred twenty-one brethren who attended the Feast in Townsend had to bring their own sunshine with them. Thankfully, that was not a problem, and there was no shortage of smiles and enthusiasm. The Feast experience was another real blessing for the entire congregation. Having the combination of many long-time church members with a number of first-time attendees provided extra excitement within the fellowship, and there was a pervading spirit of peace and unity. The meeting hall we have enjoyed here for the past several years has been an ideal venue for many group activities, and it made it possible to enjoy group meals together on both High Days and the weekly Sabbath between services, as well as a potluck meal for Family Night. There was also the joy of five baptisms that took place during the Feast, probably a record number in one place for us over the last few years.

Mr. Raymond Cole first opened a Feast site in Townsend for this remnant group in 1983, and all of these years it has remained an ideal place to worship before God in peace. We are most thankful for another very inspirational festival, and we thank every participant for their services in helping make it truly a Feast to remember.

Yachats, Oregon: There were eighty-one brethren who met together in Yachats, Oregon, for the Feast. The weather for the entire time was incredibly warm and nice, which was a blessing for those who had outside activities such as horseback riding, hiking, charter boat fishing, sand dune buggy rides and beach combing. It was a very warm, peaceful, positive and inspiring time with close fellowship and unity throughout the Feast. We are very grateful for the direction and correction given to us by the ministry through their inspiring sermons. We send our love and regards to our brethren around the world.

Kandersteg, Switzerland: Forty brethren attended the Feast this year in Kandersteg, including four little children (aged between five and seventeen months). People came from seven different countries: Australia, Canada, England, France, Spain, Switzerland and the USA. Thanks to the help of a few bilingual young people, the verses and the main lines of Mr. Jean Aviolat's sermons were typed directly on a computer and projected so that our English-speaking friends could understand the topics.

Mr. Aviolat talked about the following subjects (among some others): blood and its importance in our lives, the steps required to be accepted in God's Kingdom, the influence of Satan, and what it means to fear God.

We also listened to three sermons from Mr. Jon Brisby on the first and last High Days as well as on the Sabbath. These sermons were given in the USA in 2002. They were translated and pre-recorded by Mrs. Christine Sherwood, whom we thank again very much for the faithful and difficult work she accomplishes all year long to allow us to understand Mr. Cole's and Mr. Brisby's sermons.

We were very blessed to celebrate with joy this Feast of Tabernacles with all the brethren who traveled such a great distance. Despite the language barrier for some of us, we were all united as one big family. The extremely favorable weather, very sunny for the most part, allowed many of us to fellowship during beautiful walks in the mountains surrounding.

Nicolas and Marie Lécluse prepared a wonderful special music program executed by many musicians, including two very talented Australian young adults. Mr. Aviolat was especially happy to have a choir enriched by English singers, and Nicolas would like

to thank our American brethren for loaning us a good portion of their best voices, which he was very pleased to conduct.

Mr. Aviolat was also really moved and elated by the presence of the little babies at the Feast. He reminded us that: They are an example for us, adults, because they show the magnificence of man having been created in the image of God, who would like to share His glory with us in His Kingdom to come. The three youngest children received the laying on of hands on the Last Great Day. We are really thankful to God who has preserved His faithful servant for forty years, and we thank Mr. and Mrs. Aviolat greatly for their loyalty and devotion.

During the fun afternoon, Mr. Jacques Litzler showed some old pictures from several Feasts that were celebrated since the apostasy. The oldest one was taken in Italy in 1976. Thirty-seven Feasts in total have been celebrated in Kandersteg. The afternoon was also filled with songs, music, mime games and some dancing (conducted by Mrs. Olivia Nalder) that added a very dynamic atmosphere. Mrs. Isabelle Litzler presented a slide show explaining how to rest the land in the seventh year, and how to make sauerkraut! To end the day, most of the brethren met at the Adler restaurant to eat some "fondue," and it was really appreciated by our American and Australian friends!

We send our love and very warm greetings to all of our brethren across the world.

Trip Schedule

Mr. Jon Brisby

November 14..... Launceston, Tasmania, Australia

November 21..... Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-RC 39-2	10-08-15	10-31-15	Confrontations and Responses of Jesus Christ #2
WSE-JB 170	10-08-15	11-07-15	I Like the Feast Because . . .
WST-RWL 18	10-29-15	11-14-15	Overcoming Emotional Immaturity
WSE-JB 171	10-29-15	11-21-15	All About Boundaries
WSE-RC 39-3	10-29-15	11-28-15	Confrontations and Responses of Jesus Christ #3
WSE-JB 173	11-19-15	12-05-15	Fall 2015—Where Do We Stand Today?
WSE-JB 174-1	11-19-15	12-12-15	Gog and Magog—Revelation vs. Speculation #1

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby