

Announcement Letter November 2016

Dear Brethren:

In this first letter to all of you since the completion of another Holy Day season, we greet you with warm regards and heartfelt prayers for your physical and spiritual well being. No matter where you live around the globe, your participation in this little remnant group is significant and very much appreciated. We are certainly very small in numbers, but we are most blessed to be holding firm to a way of life that is unmatched on this earth in producing peace, joy, and the real hope for a very glorious future. What God has granted to us is the most valuable blessing any human being could ever receive.

A special thank you to all of you who helped make our celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles so successful once again. We were blessed with another peaceful and inspirational gathering of brethren from all over the world in those designated sites where we appeared before God to make our spiritual offerings. In spite of the fact that circumstances in the world are getting more ominous with every passing day, 2016 will be recorded as another year in which the true Church of God was permitted once again to worship in peace. We simply do not know how long that status might persist. We must relish each and every opportunity afforded to fulfill these commands for holy convocation. In the future day that we may be prevented from doing so, it may also be required for us to soldier forward in much more physical isolation, taking solace from the memory of times in which we have been so blessed, like at this past Feast season. May you each relish that blessing.

Now that we are facing the coming months before the next Passover season, as another civil year in God's plan has been completed, it is an excellent time to do some personal evaluation and to analyze critically how good were our choices in the preceding year. Did you observe those commanded Feasts as a priority? If not, why not? What will you do better in the coming year to be sure to make God and His commandments more of a priority and also more of a joy? Do not "cry over spilled milk." Take stock thoughtfully of where you might have made mistakes, ask God's forgiveness, and then pick yourself up and make a plan for the coming year that will be pleasing to the Creator God we are serving. Did you allow the mundane things of this life to get in your way? Did pressures from family, business, fear, etc. prevent you from stepping out in faith to put God first? What will you do differently in coming months to change anything that is displeasing to God? Remember, *unless things change, they remain the same*. Now is an excellent time for that heartfelt soul searching.

If we will do that spiritual work diligently, God is waiting and willing to come to our rescue and to fight our battles for us.

And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light (Romans 13:11–12).

New Moon

The new moon, Kislev (ninth month), begins Wednesday evening, November 30. The new moon day is Thursday, December 1.

Death

Mrs. Myra Cole of Eugene, Oregon, died Thursday, October 6, of age-related causes. Myra was the widow of our founding pastor, Mr. Raymond Cole, and a dedicated longtime member of the church. She was also preceded in death by two brothers, Gene and Kent Carter. She was ninety years of age at the time of her death. Even though Myra was basically bedfast for the last four years and unable to attend church, we will still miss her very much. We offer our condolences to her daughters, Lynn and Jann, three grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

Feast Reports

Port Sorrell, Tasmania, Australia: The brethren in Australia were blessed with a very special Feast of Tabernacles. What a joy it was to have our South African brethren present with us to keep it and rejoice where God placed His name for 2016. The church's unity, love and loyalty to the Faith Once Delivered was a blessing to us all. The food, both physical and spiritual, was very much enjoyable to us all. The love of God's Way of Life was our guide for service one to another. There were a total of fifteen adults and four children. All the sermon messages provoked us all unto good works and inspired us with the God Family vision to move forward with clear focus.

Special thanks to Samuel and Samara Richardson for the Special Music during God's services throughout the Feast of Tabernacles. God's use of music is a gift and we all appreciated it before our Eternal God.

This truly was the best Feast ever. All worked together for the good of us all in God's remnant of which we are all blessed to be a part. We all look forward to next year's Feast with much anticipation.

Yachats, Oregon: There were one hundred three people attending in Yachats this year. We were blessed with many visitors who usually attend the Townsend site, plus a long-distance traveler from France.

Even though the weather was stormy off and on throughout, the warm and loving closeness among the members was very stimulating and encouraging. The storms actually made the ocean and waves even more powerful and interesting to watch. For activities there was beach combing and sand dune riding on the nicer days, and a freshly-made-juice bar. There was also a great deal of visiting and sharing of meals. The family night was lots of fun and the addition of more skits made it a jam-packed evening of entertainment. The lamb roast was a success as well and cooked to perfection.

The inspired sermons made us stop and think. You could hear people reminding themselves in conversations before they spoke. It was definitely food for thought, and was already being put into practice. There were two babies blessed, and there was one baptism.

We send our love and best wishes to all of the brethren worldwide.

Townsend, Tennessee: The Feast in Townsend began with a pre-Feast BBQ the Sabbath before, with seventy people attending at the Litz farm. It was a good way to renew old acquaintances and allow the children to make new friends.

The weather during the Feast was fantastic; sunny and warm, with the trees in the area making their colorful display of leaves and keeping all of our spirits high. One hundred three people attended, enjoying the thought-provoking sermons, the fellowship and food at the two catered meals and the two potlucks, and the very entertaining family night coordinated by Davin Arroyo. We saw some new faces in the choir this year, adding to our joyful noise unto the Lord. Two children were blessed and we added one new member to the family by baptism. We are also thankful to have a newly-ordained deacon in Mr. Steve O'Neill.

Thank you to all those who helped make this the "Best Feast Ever."

Kandersteg, Switzerland: In spite of mostly cold and grey weather, we all had a beautiful Feast, surrounded by snowy mountains.

Everyone was enriched spiritually by inspiring sermons from both Mr. Aviolat and Mr. Brisby (by recording), and by the warm fellowship. The language barrier did not prevent anyone from fellowshipping and sharing meals or tea together.

A sunny Sunday before the Feast allowed the more courageous ones to hike to Lake Oeschinenessee, while another walk to Blue Lake (full of trout) was also organized during the Feast. A group of young people even tried curling for the first time this year! The Family Afternoon was very joyous; everyone was invited to participate in songs and games, and we discovered some parts of South Africa through pictures taken two years ago by Jérémie and Aurélie Litzler during their trip there. At the end of the day, a fondue meal was enjoyed again by many, followed by a game of pool for the children.

We would like to thank Mr. Jean-David Aviolat for taking care of the technical things (at the meeting hall and for recording and copying the sermons throughout the year). We were also very thankful to have Mr. Thomas Brisby as our daily emcee, and Nicolas Lécluse as our live translator (via computer and projector) for the English-speaking brethren. The eight brethren (four South African, two English, two American) were a blessing to our group that reached the number of thirty people, including two little twin girls.

Our thoughts and prayers go to our brothers and sisters around the world.

Don Carlos, Mindanao, Philippines: The Feast was a great success with many different committees (assigned by Mr. Mario Roque) rallying to make it the best Feast ever!

The housing committee for all accommodations and repairs (including where we lived) was a great success. The ministerial services of Mr. Ed Cambil and Mr. Jerry Rodrigo also went smoothly, with Mr. Cambil conducting the blessing of children. His wife, Mrs. Belen Cambil, and her assistant rallied all the young people for the hall and grounds preparation.

The social entertainment and amusement committees were successful and included the "Till We Meet Again" or La Vista party, sports, and games.

The projector and sound equipment worked perfectly for the playing of Mr. Brisby's inspired sermons during services as well as for the film and cartoon nights. The outdoor picnic and general maintenance services, and the special music and conducted songs during the services also went smoothly. We appreciate every single person who helped to make it a success. We send our regards to all the brethren.

Suna-Migori, Kenya: Greetings from Kenya with much hope that all of you had a pleasant Feast 2016. Here in Kenya it was good, and we were one hundred ten altogether. It was the most solemn Feast ever in our history, and you could hear that from the brethren whenever three or four sat together.

The members sang as we would imagine angels surrounding the throne of God, the teaching was *so* powerful, and love was the center of the place.

When asked how they saw this year's Feast, members said that they have attended many Feasts, but this one is number one. We did not experience any problems or sickness, and it was unusual that we had rain only on the first day and on the Last Great Day.

We thank you, brethren, for the support you have been giving us from the first day we joined Church of God, The Eternal to date. May God bless you and keep you all safe.

Trip Schedule

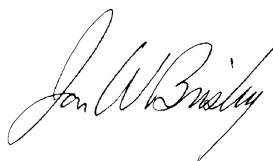
Mr. Jon Brisby

November 12..... Somerset, Tasmania, Australia
December 17..... Don Carlos, Mindanao, Philippines

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-RC 39-25	10-06-16	10-29-16	Confrontations and Responses of Jesus Christ #25
WSE-JB 22-153-26C	10-06-16	11-05-16	Fund. of Belief #26: Worldly Holidays: Calendars #1
WSE-RC 39-26	10-06-16	11-12-16	Confrontations and Responses of Jesus Christ #26
WSE-JB 190	11-03-16	11-19-16	What Did Christ Know (and When)?
WSE-RC 39-27	11-03-16	11-26-16	Confrontations and Responses of Jesus Christ #27
WST-RJL 20	11-03-16	12-03-16	Why Sore Trials and Suffering?
WSE-RC 39-28	11-24-16	12-10-16	Confrontations and Responses of Jesus Christ #28

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby