

Announcement Letter May 2017

Dear Brethren:

As we count down toward Pentecost through this month of May, your friends and servants here in Eugene, Oregon, greet you with sincere affection and warm regards. Thank you again for your participation in this little remnant group and being a small part of God's promise that the gates of hell would never prevail against His Church. Please never forget or discount your importance in that divine Plan. It is the very most important work going on in this world right now.

Fifteen years ago, the idea for a summer camp to benefit our teenagers was conceived and brought into existence by Mrs. Jackie Wakefield and Mr. David Brandenburg. Since the location of the camp during the first three years was in the state of Texas, they named it *Camp Tejas*. Over all of these past years, many different members have sacrificed to make this program a real blessing to our youth, and the proof of its value is very evident, especially in the testimony of former campers who have since become very strong members of God's Church and are helping to defend that faith today.

No, the purpose of the camp was never to "indoctrinate" teens into church doctrine. It was structured simply to generate a truly *positive experience* for teens of families in God's church, to show how the *practical application of godly principles* can also be fun and rewarding. The pressures of this world are immense. Parents seeking to teach their children the right way to live have a daunting challenge. The fact that your children live in your home does not mean they are protected from all bad influences. And sadly, teenagers by nature start to *tune out* parents and their wisdom. Camp Tejas became *another tool* parents were able to use to help reinforce the values they want to impart to their children.

Yes, at Camp Tejas there are daily "talks" to emphasize right principles, but those talks would be just as valuable to anyone seeking a happy life for his future, whether in or out of "the church." All of it is Bible-based, but the wisdom of God's Truth can be taught to children of all ages through *common sense*, not just by boring lectures. And the very best way to convince young minds of the value of God's way is to *show them* all the possible ways to have fun without partaking of the filth of this world. That was what Jackie and David were originally shooting for, and that is exactly what came about. And it has been a blessing now for the past fifteen years.

Since the death of Mr. David Brandenburg, one of the many voids we are adjusting to is his loss of leadership with Camp Tejas. But God is actively solving that as well. Mr. John

McNeil III immediately volunteered to step in and take control of the camp project, and his organizational efforts have been in evidence for several months. Everything is right on schedule for the camp to carry forward without a hitch. We depend always upon God to bless and guide, and it is evident that His same level of blessing is upon this endeavor. With the help of other veterans from many past summer camps, like Mr. Duane Garland, we are in an excellent position, organizationally. Mr. McNeil and Mr. Garland both have daughters who will be at camp again this year, so they have a very vested interest in doing a good job. They both have "skin in the game."

As in every past year, Church of God, The Eternal is not the "legal" sponsor of Camp Tejas. The camp is being organized and directed by John McNeil this year, and he is taking personal responsibility for it (even as David Brandenburg carried that legal responsibility in past years). However, the church is truly the facilitator, both financially and with most of the resources needed to make it successful. That includes the personal help of the ministry to participate in many of the camp activities. It is well structured, and wisely managed.

Every parent must make a decision whether to send his/her teenager to camp. There may be a number of reasons why it is not the right choice for your particular family. But as we get down to the wire in planning for this year's camp, please consider these points in making your final determination:

- Are you using long-range vision in making your choices? One day your children will become adults, and they will no longer be under your roof. What are you doing *now* to facilitate that transition to adulthood? If Camp Tejas is not one of the tools you are using to help your children learn a little more independence, what are you doing instead? You need an active program of some kind. Do you have one?
- Are you teaching faith or feeding fear? Some children are naturally adventuresome, but others are inherently fearful. Part of a good education is learning to face new or unknown situations without being paralyzed with fear. When a child faces and overcomes fear, he/she is strengthened on the road to becoming a mature adult. Mastering this principle applies to all children. Example: All children need to learn math, whether they naturally like math or not. Sheltering a child from learning math because it is hard for him is not a good choice. Neither is sheltering children from learning to be comfortable outside of their current comfort zones.
- As you look for ways to help teach your children to become more independent—howbeit still in a controlled way which supports your family values—what better vehicle do you have at present to accomplish that than Camp Tejas? What environment outside your own home will most closely align with your values, and allow your teen to begin to internalize those same principles apart from your parental shelter? Again, if not Camp Tejas, what?

- Lastly, what if this is the last year God makes it possible for us to offer such a blessed program? Even though we have been blessed to offer it for fifteen straight years, none of us knows what the next year will bring. We have no reason to believe so, but 2017 could be the very last year. What else do you have planned for your teens for this July that is more valuable by comparison?

These are all questions that have no predetermined answer for every family. Every circumstance is different. We want Camp Tejas to be a blessing for those families who come to value the opportunity. Parents are the ones God has given responsibility to make these decisions. May we always support that God-given family structure, and when possible, may we make use of the blessings God has granted us to help our member families in these difficult times. We are praying for the success of every family who is struggling to hold firm to the faith once delivered.

Camp Tejas for Teens

Registration information will be coming out in the next couple of weeks for Camp Tejas 2017. The purpose of the camp is to provide a special opportunity for teenage children in the church to participate in positive, structured, and wholesome activities with their peers, founded on our spiritual beliefs. This all takes a great deal of time and expense. If anyone would like to give a donation to help out, it would be greatly appreciated.

This year the camp will run from June 29 through July 10 and will be held in the Camas, WA, area. There will be a variety of exciting group activities and fun events throughout. You may contact Mr. John McNeil at (541) 915-7924 or john@mcneilonline.com for more information.

New Moon

The new moon, Sivan (third month), begins Thursday evening, May 25. The new moon day is Friday, May 26.

Trip Schedule

Mr. Jon Brisby

May 27. Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
 June 3, 5 Lausanne, Switzerland
 June 10. Orgères, Normandy, France

Holy Day

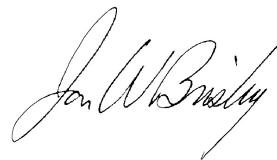
Pentecost..... Monday, June 5

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-JWB 22-158-26H	04-20-17	05-06-17	Fund. of Belief #26: Worldly Holidays: Easter
CL2-RC 147	04-20-17	05-13-17	Principles of Christian Living (Series 2): Humility #10
CL2-RC 148	04-20-17	05-20-17	Principles of Christian Living (Series 2): Humility #11
CL2-RC 149	05-11-17	05-27-17	Principles of Christian Living (Series 2): Humility #12
CL2-RC 151*	05-11-17	06-03-17	Principles of Christian Living (Series 2): Humility #14*
WSE-JWB 22-159-26I	05-11-17	06-10-17	Fund. of Belief #26: Worldly Holidays: Acceptable Days
CL2-RC 152	06-01-17	06-17-17	Principles of Christian Living (Series 2): Humility #15

* Please note that CL2-RC 150, "Humility" #13, is not included on the regular sermon schedule. The audio quality of this sermon is poor and very difficult to hear, so we are not listing it as one of the scheduled sermons. We will, however, include it on the CDs that you receive in case you would like to hear it.

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby