

Announcement Letter September 2017

Dear Brethren:

This will be the last opportunity to address you in a monthly mailing before we all gather in designated places around the world to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. With that in mind, we reaffirm our love and special regard for all of you—some of the very few people on the face of this earth right now in a position to show real honor and respect for the Creator God.

That statement is not an attempt to be "exclusive," arrogant, or to puff up any of you. It simply acknowledges the fact that only those called (very few) can truly show honor to God. It is according to His call, not our "volunteerism." And within that small group of the called, the only ones who can truly honor God are those who choose to obey His instructions as He gave them, without perversion. Therefore, even among the very small population of "called-out ones" at this time, how many are honoring God's commandments concerning the correct day of Pentecost, for instance? Monday is the only correct day. All others are a perversion, and therefore an abomination to that God. With that in mind, how many who will be "keeping" the upcoming autumn Feasts will be doing so with God's approbation? Very few indeed. So few were prophesied to remain faithful in our day, that God's description of the last-day Church seems very bleak:

Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers. And the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city. *Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant*, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah (Isaiah 1:7–9) [emphasis mine].

Because you are among those *very few* at this time who have an understanding and appreciation for *the faith once delivered*, you are among the *very few* who have any chance at all to show proper respect to this God by appearing in His presence and making your offerings before Him at these Feasts.

For that reason, your presence is critical. Your attitude in coming with purpose to praise and honor that mighty God is critical. Your orientation to make yourself a living

sacrifice at those Feasts is critical. And even though, to the world, it is an insignificant—even laughable—thing, to that Creator God who now sits on His throne, it is not. That is why you have nothing else in your life more important than appearing.

Enclosed you will find the *Monthly Letter* by Mr. Eduardo Cambil, a dear friend and the ministerial assistant to Mr. Mario Roque for our brethren in the Philippines. Since you will not be receiving an October mailing, we have also enclosed a reprint of a 1981 issue of our *Monthly Letter* written by Mr. Jean Aviolat. Along with the Spiritual Principle provided below, these hopefully will be reminders of how best to prepare ourselves to have a very marvelous Feast season.

Spiritual Principle (reprinted from the September 2014 *Announcement Letter*):

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. We often end up paying for a mailing twice. It is also less than ideal when an anointed cloth is returned to us as "undeliverable."

Please try to remember to notify us whenever you have a change of contact data during the year. The office staff works hard to update that contact information immediately so that we have the most accurate information possible. It is very much appreciated.

New Moon

The new moon, Tishri (seventh month), begins Wednesday evening, September 20. The new moon day is Thursday, September 21.

Holy Days

Feast of Trumpets..... Thursday, September 21
Atonement. Sabbath, September 30
Feast of Tabernacles. October 5–11
(Opening night service: Wednesday, October 4)
Last Great Day..... Thursday, October 12

Trip Schedule

Mr. Jon Brisby

September 21 (Trumpets), 23. Modesto, California
September 30 (Atonement). Eugene, Oregon
October 4–7 (FOT).. Yachats, Oregon
October 8–12 (FOT).. Townsend, Tennessee
October 14. Maryville, Tennessee

Mr. Richard Litz

October 4–12 (FOT).. Townsend, Tennessee

Mr. Robert Litz

October 4–12 (FOT).. Townsend, Tennessee

Mr. Robert Burke

October 4–12 (FOT).. Yachats, Oregon

Monthly Letter

Since the Feast of Tabernacles falls too early in the month to allow enough time to prepare a *Monthly Letter*, there will be no letter for October.

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-JB 201	08-03-17	09-02-17	Contentment vs. Covetousness
CL2-RC 158	08-24-17	09-09-17	Principles of Christian Living (Series 2): Humility #21
WSE-JB 22-161-26K	08-24-17	09-16-17	Fund. of Belief #26: Worldly Holidays: More Holidays
Holy Day Sermon	08-10-17	09-21-17	Feast of Trumpets
CL2-RC 159	08-24-17	09-23-17	Principles of Christian Living (Series 2): Humility #22
Holy Day Sermon	08-10-17	09-30-17	Day of Atonement
WSE-JB 22-162-26L	09-14-17	10-14-17	Fund. of Belief #26: Worldly Holidays: Memorials of War
CL2-RC 160	09-14-17	10-21-17	Principles of Christian Living (Series 2): Humility #23
CL2-RC 161	09-14-17	10-28-17	Principles of Christian Living (Series 2): Humility #24
WSE-JB 204	10-03-17	11-04-17	Spiritual Urgency
CL2-RC 162	10-03-17	11-11-17	Principles of Christian Living (Series 2): Humility #25
CL2-RC 163	10-03-17	11-18-17	Principles of Christian Living (Series 2): Humility #26

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby