

Announcement Letter November 2017

Dear Brethren:

If it is November, it means we have recently completed another Holy Day season and Feast of Tabernacles observance, and now are all turning our attention back to our responsibilities at home. We greet with deep appreciation all of those who continue to value *the revealed faith* and are making priority to walk in that Way. We pray that your personal festival experiences were rewarding and inspiring. When we follow through and obey God's commands to His Church—as He gave us inspired instruction—there is nothing that can match the satisfaction of being part of those blessed convocations. For those of you who did not attend the Feast in one of those designated areas for whatever reason, you are still much loved, and we pray for your health and strength to be able to participate in the future.

In spite of ominous events in the world around us, we were blessed once again with the ability to travel far distances to keep the Feast, and to enjoy peaceful gatherings in practicing our faith before God. Although we anticipate a time to come when that will no longer be possible physically, to date it is still a great blessing that we enjoy. For that we are truly thankful to God for His mercy and special care.

The following Feast reports from each of our Feast sites around the world this year will confirm a common theme of blessing and appreciation. Every group with roots in our parent organization likes to claim they had "the best Feast ever" as a way to assert their legitimacy. We have no interest in that game, and no need to *spin* what we are doing. We simply continue to hold fast to the original teachings that Jesus Christ revealed through a chosen servant in our time, and are thankful for another year's opportunity to meet in peace and harmony. None of us knows how many more years such blessings may abound, so it is important to relish every one of them we are still afforded. God has promised that the gates of hell will never prevail against His Church (Matthew 16:18), and regardless of how few or how many today may recognize us as participating in that fulfillment, we simply carry forward defending the original teachings that we cherish, and thank God for giving us yet *one more year* in which to celebrate His glorious plan for man's salvation through these Holy Day convocations.

New Moon

The new moon, Kislev (ninth month), begins Saturday evening, November 18. The new moon day is Sunday, November 19.

Feast Reports

Port Sorrell, Tasmania, Australia: We all enjoyed being together with our brothers and sisters in the Faith once delivered to serve one another. God's Spirit was evidently present as we celebrated and enjoyed it while looking forward to the promise of the Millennium. The sermon messages impacted us as we see the urgency of being made ready spiritually. We each had our own tests and trials this year, whether health or age-related, and are thankful that all has worked together spiritually, as we are of little strength physically. The determination of the older brethren to be at the Feast was an inspiration to all. The young adults and children enjoyed a range of activities from bush walking to bowling. Also Mr. and Mrs. Richardson opened up their dwelling for a BBQ. We may be small in number, but God's intervention made this Feast possible. And we were all grateful for another Feast of Tabernacles in 2017.

Yachats, Oregon: There were sixty-four people attending in Yachats, a smaller group than usual, as many visited the Townsend site this year. Fewer people meant that we were able to visit more and get to know one another better. We enjoyed many meals together, walks on the beach, and much visiting before and after church. It was nice to gain deeper love and closeness.

The weather could not have been more sunny and beautiful on the coast for the first half of the Feast. Only the last few days brought a coastal storm and seasonal rains. The family night/pizza meal was lots of fun, with group games for young and old to enjoy together. The pizzas were made by a local restaurant with good natural ingredients, and they were yummy!

A highlight of our Feast was the ordaining by Mr. Jon Brisby of Mr. Bob Burke as an elder. He was immediately put to work supplying us with four inspiring sermons during the Feast. Such a blessing to have him added to the ministry!

Once again we have come home with much spiritual food to digest and to put to good use, and good memories of the warmth of the church family. We send our love and best wishes to all of the brethren worldwide.

Townsend, Tennessee: The Feast in Tennessee this year was exceptionally warm and beautiful with one hundred two adults and thirty children enjoying the balmy weather and many chances for fellowship. The thoughtful and inspiring messages were appreciated by everyone and gave us much to talk about during the catered meals and potlucks that allowed us to stay in the hall and fellowship on the days that had double services. The pleasant weather also allowed everyone to enjoy being outside for activities and eliminated the usual illnesses that often show up toward the end of the Feast. In fact, our anointing room got very little use. The Feast atmosphere this year was extended to the Sabbath following the Last Great Day, with seventy-one people staying over for Sabbath services and a potluck at the Litz church cottage. It was quite a party and no one wanted to go home. See you again next year!

Kandersteg, Switzerland: A small group of twenty-four (including children) enjoyed keeping the Feast once again in this picturesque mountain village. The weather was sunny for the most part, providing opportunities for outdoor activities like walking, biking, cable-car rides to scenic viewing areas, and the Via Ferrata (rock climbing that is not for the faint of heart!). The family afternoon get-together provided much musical entertainment, after which a group dinner was enjoyed at a local restaurant that has been serving the brethren for almost forty years. Mr. Aviolat remained strong in giving his sermons, but also enjoyed being among the congregation and listening to some past Feast sermons by Mr. Brisby that had been translated for the occasion. The French-speaking brethren send their love and regards to the scattered brethren around the world.

Don Carlos, Mindanao, Philippines: Brethren from all over the Philippines assembled together in Don Carlos, Bukidnon, to rejoice before the Eternal God. For eight days filled with joy and spiritual regeneration, brethren from different parts of the Philippine islands of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao dwelled together to celebrate God's Feast of Tabernacles.

Mr. Jon Brisby began the Feast on opening night with a warm recorded greeting to all participants and then the opening message. The brethren were very excited to be unified again, to be inspired and to be spiritually rejuvenated. This year's Feast had additional new members—a family from Davao and one new member from Dumaguete City. Also, a member was baptized and added to the number.

The weather was beautiful, although it did rain heavily on some nights, but that did not cause any cancellation of the activities. Many enjoyed a family picnic in one of the picturesque natural resorts in Bukidnon. Adults and young children enjoyed swimming, great food and showcasing their best hidden talents in karaoke. There was also a balanced program of games, a film show and fun for the children. We also had a basketball game and a singing contest for adults.

Food was plentiful during the Feast. Each family prepared their own dishes and secret recipes, but the experience of sharing everything is ever present during the Feast. Everyone was quick to help one another, joyful, and demonstrated brotherly love and concern. The sermons really hammered on spiritual preparation for that soon-coming World Tomorrow. It was a real blessing to be together and enjoy God's blessing of physical abundance, fine food and the brethren's demonstration of living together in unity, happiness and harmony. We cannot wait for the next year's Feast of Tabernacles to come.

Suna-Migori, Kenya: The Feast of Tabernacles was very, very good this year. The total number attending was one hundred twelve. Others did not attend due to the situation in Kenya, where there is rioting nearly every other day. Members were happy—you could see it on their faces—and we were having two services every day with Bible study after supper. I was able to bless one child. We did not have rain this time which forced us to buy drinking water from the super market. We thank all those brethren who have sacrificed for the last fourteen years to enable us to keep the Feast. May God continue to bless you. The topics we covered were: Will Christ Return?; Being the Light; 2003 Newsletter Dress Code; Faith and Loyalty; What Is Christianity?; When God Speaks and Nobody Listens; What Does it Mean to Deny Christ?; and Walking With God. May God bless you all.

Hermanus, South Africa: Greetings from Hermanus, South Africa, 2017. After a year without a Feast in SA, it was back to Hermanus for most of the brethren in our little corner of the world. Despite the attempts of the enemy to unsettle and prevent us, we all arrived safely, with attitudes of expectancy and gratefulness for God's provision and protection. The sermons far exceeded our hopes—challenging, exhorting and encouraging us to do better! What a blessing to be a part of the very few who are holding to the Faith Once Delivered, and who are gathered at His appointed places throughout the world to obediently keep His commanded Feasts! How favored indeed we are to have such caring and loving shepherds to teach, lead and guide us!

The weather was characteristic of this part of the country at this time of year—some cloudy days, some rainy days, and some bright sunshine, although cool days. We were able to enjoy the area with its various restaurants and gorgeous outdoors; the mountains, natural vegetation and the ocean; and we spotted some whales in their favorite playground. Great fellowship around shared meals was appreciated by all, and everyone also was able to rest and relax abundantly.

As we continue to watch and pray, and see the natural and manmade disasters around us, and worldwide, we patiently look to Christ's return and His judgment of all mankind, and the formation of His rule in righteousness on this earth, just as we have remembered and rehearsed during this Feast time. Love and blessings.

Trip Schedule

Mr. Jon Brisby

November 18..... Hobart, Tasmania, Australia

December 23..... Don Carlos, Mindanao, Philippines

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
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
CL2-RC 164	11-09-17	11-25-17	Principles of Christian Living (Series 2): Humility #27
CL2-RC 165	11-09-17	12-02-17	Principles of Christian Living (Series 2): Humility #28
WSE-JB 205	11-09-17	12-09-17	Connecting Deuteronomy 21 to Matthew 18
CL2-RC 166	11-30-17	12-16-17	Principles of Christian Living (Series 2): Humility #29

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby