

Announcement Letter September 2018

Dear Brethren:

To our most beloved friends and believers in the common faith, we greet you with sincere love and affection as we relish the beginning of the seventh month in God's calendar. When the seventh month arrives, it means the autumn Holy Day season has begun. The rest of the world may be looking forward to their own holiday seasons at the end of the year, but we are among those who understand the Truth about holy convocations, and the true focal point of the season we are in.

It is with great fanfare that I tell you it is high time for each one of you to flee to a place of safety! Can it really be true? Oh yes, it is indeed. How so? I am not talking about heading for a stronghold in the desert to escape imminent catastrophe on this earth from the final wrath of Satan. But I am talking about God's inspired and commanding instruction for each one of you to *drop everything else you are doing in this world* and to appear before Him in a place where He has placed His name, *to keep the Feast of Tabernacles*. It is indeed a command performance before the Most High God who rules in the kingdoms of men—the One who has made Feast-keeping *a sign* to highlight those who truly trust Him and seek to honor Him. It takes real faith to push back against our natural fears and to journey to a place far away from our homes. But in so doing, we show God that we truly believe that His Feasts are holy, and that our physical attendance is required to present offerings. Staying at home (when we are not *truly prevented* by physical disability) is either defiance, fear, lack of planning, or unbelief. Worshiping God in Spirit and Truth requires that we take our belief out of the theoretical, and make it a *living Faith*. Live it by doing it! Those who do so will be in *a true place of safety* during those eight days. Those who know better, but do not, will be putting themselves very much in harm's way. If that is not so, then God's command is empty. God never makes empty threats.

A new contact who recently has found value in our online articles asked if it is possible to keep the upcoming Feast with one of the other groups closer to home, if it is too difficult to make it to one of our Feast sites. In the course of responding to this very sincere person's question, it resonated that the reply would be a very good reminder for all of us about what we stand for as a remnant fellowship. Here is a paraphrase of that reply:

To answer your question about fellowship with different groups, my reply is not intended to sound "exclusive." I realize that most groups will

advise meeting with them and with no one else, and I will advise you the same, but for a very different reason. It's not about trying to be "the only one."

Notice that to God, it's not about just going "someplace" to offer your spiritual sacrifices before Him. God's own people, Israel, were still gathering on Holy Days to offer sacrifices, and yet God did not accept them:

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. Hear the word of the LORD, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah. To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats. When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts? Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them. And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood (Isaiah 1:9–15).

I hate, I despise your feast days, and I will not smell in your solemn assemblies. Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them: neither will I regard the peace offerings of your fat beasts. Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs; for I will not hear the melody of thy viols (Amos 5:21–23).

These were not "pagans" practicing some totally foreign religion. These were *true Israelites*, but ones who had *perverted God's instructions* (His Law), yet were still going through the motions of having Holy Day assemblies. And the point is, if there are certain Feast of Tabernacles gatherings that God hates, because the ministers are teaching false doctrine, would you truly want to be at one of those gatherings?

In order to truly "keep" the Feast, we must come into the very presence of God, in *a place where He will choose to place His name*. Where will that be? Will it be at the nearest place to your home, for convenience?

[Most of the other splinter groups] are ones that have embraced a Sunday Pentecost, which is an abomination to God. They have also embraced that false teaching on marriage from 1974, and are teaching that adultery is not really adultery. How many abominations does a group have to absorb before God refuses to appear in their midst? That is the question.

We each have to make our own choices about this. It is between each one of us and God. But because you asked me for my opinion, I can only answer you according to my own conviction before that same God. I chose to join Church of God, The Eternal in 1981 because I believed that those doctrinal changes in the WCG in 1974 and afterwards were truly abominations. I wanted to fellowship with a remnant that was sincerely holding fast to *the faith once delivered* (Jude 3). I came to believe that God and Jesus Christ *were kicked out* of the WCG by arrogant scholars who decided they knew better than God what is Truth. I came to believe that God rejected them and did not any longer grant them help through His Holy Spirit. I came to believe that God will only back up a ministry that is fervently defending the doctrines that Jesus Christ revealed originally through a chosen servant (Mr. Herbert Armstrong), and that He will never accept changing doctrines to suit ourselves. God simply refuses to accept the Holy Day sacrifices of any group that is not obeying His instructions. We should all learn from the lesson of Cain, who did indeed bring an offering to God, as did Abel. If the point is just to "bring an offering," why was Cain's rejected? The Bible does not tell us specifically, but God was not just playing favorites. If Abel's offering was accepted, and Cain's rejected, it was because Abel followed God's instructions in HOW to do an offering, and Cain did not. God will never be honored by a spirit of rebellion.

We believe that all ministers who are defending false doctrines are offering polluted sacrifices before God, and God simply refuses to be in their midst. That is what I believe, and that is why I don't just attend the "nearest" place holding a service on a Sabbath or Holy Day. Members of Church of God, The Eternal believe that doctrine matters most of all. And we have confidence (not arrogance) that because we are truly defending His

revealed Way—not teaching doctrines which came from our own minds—that God will indeed appear in our midst at the Feast of Tabernacles.

Our intent is not to put a fence around our physical group. But we do put a fence around *God's revealed Truth*. If there is another group out there that is *legitimately* holding to the correct Pentecost, teaching the truth about divorce and remarriage (and every other doctrine), then we believe God would honor their gatherings for a Feast. [Their doctrine on church government had better be sound too, or else they are simply making "Cain offerings".] So I can only advise you to go out of your way to be where you can be certain that God is present. It is *the doctrine* that will determine that.

Dear brethren of the faith, may God grant you every help in completing your plans to be at His Feast, and may you each receive the joy and satisfaction that comes from making a sincere offering before our Heavenly Father, and before our soon-coming King of Kings, Jesus Christ.

Death

Mrs. Lavinia Crane, of Somerset, Tasmania, Australia, died Tuesday, August 21, of age-related causes. Lavinia was eighty-nine at the time of her death. She will be sorely missed by the Australian brethren. We offer our sincere condolences to her husband, Algie, daughter, Evelyn, and their grandson, Matthew, his wife, Maria, and their four children.

Prayer Request

[Omitted for confidentiality]

New Moon

The new moon, Tishri (seventh month), begins Sunday evening, September 9. The new moon day is Monday, September 10.

Feast of Tabernacles

In Yachats, OR, the Feast will be held at the Yachats Commons, located at 441 Hwy 101 N.

In Townsend, TN, the Feast will be held at The Barn Event Center of the Smokies, 7264 East Lamar Alexander Pkwy.

If you need further information, please call the church office at (541) 344-8880.

Please take note that the weekly Sabbath services on September 22 will be held in Townsend, TN, and in Yachats, OR, since the Feast of Tabernacles will begin the next evening, Sunday, September 23. Please make your plans and reservations accordingly. There will be no service in Maryville, TN, or Eugene, OR, September 22.

Holy Days

Feast of Trumpets	September 10
Atonement	September 19
Feast of Tabernacles	September 23 (evening service)–30
Last Great Day	October 1

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-RC D-7	08-16-18	09-01-18	Divine Revelation #7
WSE-RC D-8	08-16-18	09-08-18	Divine Revelation #8
WSE-JWB 219	08-16-18	09-15-18	Will Neutrality Save You?
Holy Day Sermons	—	—	Trumpets, Atonement, FOT
WSE-JWB 220	09-06-18	09-22-18	What Will Be Your Legacy?
WSP-RC 1 1&2	09-06-18	10-06-18	What Is True Christian Character? #1-2
WSP-RC 1-3	09-06-18	10-13-18	What Is True Christian Character? #3

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby