

Announcement Letter November 2018

Dear Brethren:

Given the volatile times in which we live, what a blessing still to enjoy real peace and tranquility in conducting this *small Work* to support and to serve a scattered remnant church. It is so very easy to take those blessings for granted, but we prod ourselves daily to thank God and to remember how much we depend upon Him moment by moment for our lives and for our every need. Part of our daily meditation is *a thanks* for each one of you, as the called of God, who have taken an interest in that Way of Life offered to us, giving us hope beyond the depressing and demoralizing atmosphere of this evil world. All of you know that there is a bright and glorious future before us, and what a pleasure we have in providing that *spiritual fuel* that you need—through sermons, letters, and articles—to pursue that Way with conviction and with diligence. It is a blessing to do this work to serve you. Thank you for the continuing opportunity to do so.

You will find in this *Letter* a summary of reports from each of our Feast of Tabernacles sites worldwide, confirming that we did indeed receive favor again in assembling to worship God in peace in all of those designated areas around the globe. A special thanks to all of you who participated in one of those festival gatherings, for doing your part to bring a positive, attentive, and harmonizing spirit into those assemblies.

For those of you who were unable to attend, but who share a sincere love for God's promises, we missed you, and we pray that you might have the blessing of assembly in future. If you are physically weak, or burdened by other pressures that have made your attendance feel impossible to accomplish, you are not alone. There are many, not few, who experience some level of those feelings and influences of mind and body. In some cases, without God's divine intervention to change your circumstance, it is indeed impossible for you to consider traveling to keep a Feast. In other cases, some of you are just as capable of traveling as many others who actually attended the Feast this year. If you get to know enough about many of our members, you will find inspiring personal stories of ones who had many reasons to claim they could not travel, and yet pulled out all stops in order to convoke nonetheless. Some truly cannot do it. Others, however, might find that a change in focused intensity might make all the difference.

We are all incredibly vulnerable. Vulnerable—because we are each only one lost breath away from death. At best, these human bodies are incredibly fragile. We live in a dangerous world, both from the potential of accidental forces that can maim and kill, as well

as the treachery of those who seek to prey upon others without regard for the well-being of fellow man. Dangers to life and limb have been a reality since our earliest ancestors were thrust out of the Garden of Eden. Without God's divine protection, human beings are ever at risk for harm. And until the reformation of this earth under the benevolent rule of Jesus Christ, it will continue to be a world filled with perils. As we draw ever nearer that promised return of Christ, the dangers will continue to escalate, not abate.

But for all of that, the intent is not to cause you to respond with paranoia and fear. Regardless of the inherent dangers of living day by day, as the called of God, we are indeed promised special help and defense against every threat. God does not want His children living in fear of dangers, known and unknown.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me (Psalm 23:4).

If you are truly putting God first in your life, and setting your heart upon His glorious Kingdom, then He has promised to see you through every trial. You need not live in dread! But that comfort will not come because you are finding ways to "protect yourself." He did not say that *our own rod and staff* is our surety. Building yourself a bunker and stocking it with food and ammunition will not make you "safe." No, it is *His rod* and *His staff* that provide our true defense and aid.

That does not mean that He has promised to spare you from *experiencing the sensation of fear*. It is likewise a part of this glorious God's plan to force us to face our fears and to defeat them.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies . . . (vs. 5).

Yes, God will let you face threatening situations. Sometimes, He will even orchestrate it to *put you* in a dangerous environment. Why would a loving God do that? To force you to assess how much real faith you have acquired (or not). When He prepares a table for you in the midst of people and circumstances that threaten to destroy you, will you be able to respond with quiet confidence and trust Him? If we can do it correctly, in the midst of such trial, the power of God's Spirit will help us declare truthfully:

. . . thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever (Psalm 23:5–6).

Feast Reports

Kandersteg, Switzerland: A group of forty-one attended the Feast held once again in the small alpine village of Kandersteg. A substantial number of English-speaking brethren celebrated alongside the French-speaking brethren, making the group larger than usual and providing an opportunity to see new faces. While the language barrier made communication challenging, there were enough bilingual speakers to be able to help with translation. The weather was beautiful for the whole Feast, with the exception of rain on the First High Day and the Last Great Day. The warmer-than-usual weather made it ideal for outdoor activities such as hiking, rock-climbing, paragliding, and, for the less adventurous, relaxing walks and sightseeing. This was the fortieth Feast that Church of God, The Eternal has kept in Kandersteg. As a result, one of the local restaurateurs organized a free miniature-golf game with refreshments for all those who were interested in participating, and the director of the Kandersteg Tourist Office gave a speech of recognition. All the brethren send their love and regards, and remember their brethren around the world in their prayers.

Hermanus, South Africa: Greetings from South Africa. Due to two of our members traveling abroad, the two remaining families arrived safely in Hermanus. The first few days were chilly, but the hearts were warm with mutual love and an expectancy for a wonderful time. Despite not being able to spend much time outdoors due to high winds, the time was spent in great visits and conversations, not to mention the scrumptious meals! It is, after all, the Feast! We were able to spend some time later outdoors, and once again enjoyed the scenery, the floral abundance, and the many whales visible in Walker Bay. Although the town had been troubled recently by unrest and rioting, we were blessed to have experienced peace and tranquility, both within and without. The Eternal held us in His hand and protected us, and there was a tangible sense of unity and of common purpose. The spiritual food was of the highest quality, and the servings were immense . . . our cups runneth over. Spot-on instruction, both challenging and encouraging, has given everyone much food for thought for a long time to come. We are indeed blessed to have committed, dedicated servants, who hold firm to the Truth, setting us an excellent example. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts. Despite diverse trials, testing and temptations, we are all determined to endure, and hold on, as we trust that God is in control. Love and blessings.

Don Carlos, Bukidnon, Philippines: Enthusiastic Filipino brethren celebrated the 2018 Feast of Tabernacles in Don Carlos, Bukidnon, Philippines. There were strong typhoons that threatened the Philippines during the Feast dates, but the island of Mindanao was blessed with sunny weather and some light rains, so the brethren were still able to enjoy family picnics and many social and recreational activities. The brethren

were truly happy that we were able to spend time together after many months of anticipation. Before the Feast there was a lot of cleaning and preparation done at the site, new buildings were added and brand new outdoor seating for every family for dining alfresco. Everyone was quick to help, wearing bright smiles and true happiness. We shared many wonderful experiences and laugh-filled fun shows for youngsters and adults alike. There was an abundance of local produce and tropical fruits in season like durian, lanzones, pineapples, sweet 'rambutan' found in the site's garden—just a small reflection of how generous is the Eternal. The brethren found the sermons during the Feast to be powerful, inspired with the truth of the urgency to overcome obstacles to the Kingdom of God, and the magnitude and the gravity of our calling. The Filipino brethren send their love to the brethren worldwide.

Suna-Migori, Kenya: Greetings to all the remnant of God at this time. We have completed the Holy Days of God, and are back in the world which we are not part of. We in East Africa had a very, very pleasant Feast this year, and you can hear it from the testimony of brethren talking about this year's Feast. We saw God's power in healing one who was seriously sick. We were ninety in number, plus a few children. It was school days, so many children did not get time to be with us at the Feast. We thank God, who blesses our brethren to help us keep the Feast year after year. May God continue blessing us all, both spiritually and physically. Thanks to you all.

Port Sorell, Tasmania, Australia: The Australian brethren gathered together once again at Port Sorell, Tasmania, for the keeping of God's Feast of Tabernacles. Our brothers and sisters in the faith once delivered arrived from many parts of Australia, and we were blessed to have a traveling member from South Africa. We all enjoyed and rejoiced in fine food and fellowship with a range of activities from bush walking, bowling and beach ball fun. We were all thankful for fine weather, which allowed us to explore the surroundings of the area. The Feast messages this year given from the ministry were both inspiring and thought-provoking, and we all sense the message of urgency, as we strive to overcome and be born into the God Family. Our special thoughts and prayers are with those that could not attend due to health and old age conditions. This year we dearly felt the loss of our members from the body that have died the past year. Thanks to our great God for the hope set before us to continue as we look forward to the world tomorrow, a time of peace and restoration. May God hasten that day for all humanity.

Townsend, Tennessee: The Feast in Townsend, Tennessee, was the warmest most of us could remember with the temperatures unusually warm and humid for that time of year. Fortunately, most of the rain occurred during the night or when we were in services, so there were still plenty of opportunities to enjoy the beautiful Smoky Mountain area.

The smaller number of brethren this year (seventy) and the two catered meals and two potlucks allowed us lots of fellowship time to draw closer as a family. The Bunco game on Family Night was a big hit and gave everyone a chance to meet everyone else. The strong meat provided by the sermons gave us all lots to digest during the winter months ahead and will help keep us on track during these troubled times.

Yachats, Oregon: There were seventy-seven people attending in Yachats this year. We were blessed with some members visiting who usually attend other sites. The weather was warm and beautiful, a little out of character for the Oregon coast in fall, but it was very much appreciated and enjoyed by all. For activities there was beach combing, whale watching, sand dune riding and a bowling party. There was also a great deal of visiting and sharing of meals. The family night was lots of fun, and the pizza ran out far too quickly! The physical food was great as there are good restaurants in the area. The spiritual food was even better because the urgency of the inspired sermons was very much needed to fortify us for the year ahead. We send our love and best wishes to all of the brethren worldwide.

New Moon

The new moon, Kislev (ninth month), begins Thursday evening, November 8. The new moon day is Friday, November 9.

Trip Schedule

Mr. Jon Brisby

December 8..... Luzon, Philippines
December 15..... Mindanao, Philippines
December 22..... Gladstone, Queensland, Australia

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSP-RC 1-5	10-04-18	10-27-18	What Is True Christian Character? #5
WSE-JWB 221	10-04-18	11-03-18	Are You Clean?
WST-RGB 2	10-25-18	11-10-18	Are You Prepared for the 2018 Feast?
WSP-RC 1-6	10-25-18	11-17-18	What Is True Christian Character? #6
WSE-JWB 222-1	10-25-18	11-24-18	Is Seeing Believing? #1
WSP-RC 1-7	11-15-18	12-01-18	What Is True Christian Character? #7
WSE-JWB 222-2	11-15-18	12-08-18	Is Seeing Believing? #2
WSP-RC 1-8	11-15-18	12-15-18	What Is True Christian Character? #8

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby