

Announcement Letter September 2019

Dear Brethren:

The faithful of God are few in number today, and it is likely that when the final history of this particular era of time is written, many of you will be listed among *those few* who were holding fast to the true revelation of Jesus Christ in this age. It is sad that there are so very few right now, and we pray for the time when God, as promised, will begin to set His hand to recover *many* out of the deception of apostasy. In the meantime, we maintain our confidence in the perfect Plan of God, and we renew our commitment to you, a scattered body of souls who are showing a true love for those cardinal principles that Christ Himself gave to the Church. You are worthy of our love, our commitment, and our tireless service.

This is the last full month before the autumn Holy Day season, and that means we are in the home stretch in our personal and collective planning to appear before God in designated places to keep the Feast of Trumpets, Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles. We pray that you have been successful in your determined preparatory actions to be at one of those sites of commanded assembly, especially for the eight-day Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day. To the people of God, that particular assembly is especially inspiring because it pulls us out of this world and helps us to focus upon the real reason for our existence—to be reminded that this life is all about preparing for the glorious Kingdom of God. God indeed knew exactly what He was doing when He commanded us to come out of this world—to leave our homes bodily—for those eight days. Mr. Armstrong called it God's vacation plan. We do not usually think about a vacation as being forced, but in God's wisdom, He knows that we *need to be forced* out of our usual routines to become recalibrated and recharged, spiritually.

With that in mind, it makes sense for us to be reminded again about our *mental checklist* of duties once we arrive at the Feast. You have expended a lot of energy and resources *to be* at the Feast. Please do not forget also what we all must do to make that Feast *a real blessing* to the entire congregation. It is not just enough to show up. Your *proactive participation* is part of your opportunity to serve others, as Jesus Christ sacrificed to serve each one of us. That is how God's "vacation time" differs from the world's. Attending the Feast truly to worship God includes hard work to pour ourselves out for the benefit of others.

Besides attending the formal services each day in a positive frame of mind, remember that all of those whom God has called out of this world are still weak, with all manner of problems they are working to overcome. If you know that, you can be prepared to be a

positive example to them by doing what Christ did—setting an obedient example personally, while showing great *patience and forbearance* to others at the very same time. Be willing to give your time and personal attention to those whom you do not know well, or else those who might otherwise miss out on fellowship. If you are looking *proactively* for those opportunities, you just might become an instrument in God's hand to create a blessing for one of His beloved children. What better way to show real love for Jesus Christ? It is easier to retreat into our comfortable cliques. But it takes personal fortitude, fearlessness and genuine love to reach out to those who are less familiar, or to those who carry real burdens of problems. Why not resolve to be such a servant? It is absolutely the orientation God is looking for in any of those who will become Kings and Priests in His glorious Family.

As always, please do not forget that the godly principles of moderation *always apply*, including at the Feast. God wants us to celebrate before Him and to enjoy things that we might not have at other times of the year (Deuteronomy 14:26). The Feast should be special. However, many of God's people in past years have suffered the consequences of excessive eating, drinking, and lack of sleep at the Feast. Self-discipline and personal restraint are absolutely required in order to set a good example among others, and also to prevent suffering from the curses of sin. You cannot fully benefit from the Feast if you have cursed yourself, and you certainly cannot serve others if you are sick.

This is not to say that anyone who gets sick at the Feast is a "flagrant sinner" (although Mr. Armstrong confirmed that *all sickness* is a result of broken health laws, i.e., sin). Never allow yourself to pass judgment upon someone else, but always remember to apply a rigid standard to yourself. If you do that, you are in a better position to enjoy the fullness of God's inspiration at the Feast, and to set a good example for others.

Special note: Some may be sick at some time during the Feast because they have weak immune systems for other reasons, including the strain of travel and being out of their normal routines. If this occurs to you, you have another special responsibility. Be sure to follow the *general principle* of God given to ancient Israel concerning *quarantine*. If you have a contagious illness, you should not put yourself in the midst of others where that illness might likely be spread. Some in times past, for the sake of wanting to attend every service (which is very noble), have nonetheless been unwise in spreading illness to others. If it is just a common cold, attending services is OK, but it is suggested that you limit contact with others, like by arriving just before services begin, leaving immediately afterwards, and avoiding contact that might infect others. If it is something that might be much more virulent, it is much better to stay at your temporary dwelling. God will "give you credit" for being at His Feast, even if you cannot attend every service. Use real wisdom and prudence to make these decisions.

At the same time, never fall into the trap of blaming others if you "catch something." Jesus Christ communed with many people who had all manner of diseases, and He never became ill because His physical immune system was fully functional. If we are taking care of our bodies as God commands, even though we are far short of Christ's perfection, physically, we should still have healthy immune systems that decrease the chances of our getting sick. Many of us, however, cut corners in what we consume, and how much we rest, and thereby make ourselves vulnerable to illness. It is not all the fault of one who "spreads" an illness. If you get sick, take responsibility for the fact your system was weak. All the more reason to follow God's laws *in private as well as in public*, so that you will be truly strong in constitution. It is a principle that applies physically as well as spiritually.

These are just a few basic reminders as you complete your preparations for attending the Feast. May God be with you all, and may you have the fullness of joy and fulfillment that comes from practicing *the faith once delivered* in Spirit and in Truth.

Death

We are sad to announce the death of one of our dear members in Mindanao, Philippines, Mr. Edgardo (Edgar) Cambil. Edgar was the twin brother of one of our faithful ministers, Mr. Eduardo (Ed) Cambil (both of the twins are younger brothers of our senior minister, Mr. Mario Roque). Although Edgar was not a minister, he was a faithful member of God's church for many years, and his personal family has been an important part of our congregation in Mindanao for decades. Edgar was 65 years old when he died from a weakness in his heart on August 15, 2019. Edgar was a dear friend, and we offer our sincere condolences to his wife, Feliza, his children and grandchildren, and to the family of Mr. Mario Roque and all of the Philippine brethren who knew and loved him.

Feast of Tabernacles Sites

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.

Holy Days

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|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Feast of Trumpets..... | September 30 |
| Atonement..... | October 9 |
| Feast of Tabernacles..... | October 13 (evening service)–20 |
| Last Great Day. | October 21 |

Book Giveaway

As announced in past issues of this *Letter*, please remember that free copies of either the hardcover or paperback versions of *A Peculiar Treasure: The Enduring Legacy of Herbert & Loma Armstrong* will be offered to those who attend the Feast in either Yachats, Oregon, or Townsend, Tennessee. (We will attempt to provide copies to scattered brethren in other parts of the world through ministerial visits in the coming year, and have already done so with a few of you.) If you will be in one of the USA Feast sites, you can receive one copy of the book per household when you register at the registration table that will be open on non-Sabbaths. Please note that if you "give away" your copy of the book, it is not an available option for you to collect another "free copy." This is different than our other articles and booklets because of the great expense involved in producing this particular new book. As always, the book is free in all digital versions, and some of you have already obtained the book in either the Amazon Kindle or the EPUB versions (www.jonwbrisy.com, or www.amazon.com).

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. This is especially true with foreign mailings. 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, and please make sure your information is updated and accurate when you register at the Feast. 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.

Trip Schedule

Mr. Jon Brisby

October 12..... Yachats, OR
October 13–16 (FOT)..... Yachats, OR
October 17–21 (FOT)..... Townsend, TN

Mr. Robert Burke

October 12..... Townsend, TN
October 13–21 (FOT)..... Townsend, TN

Mr. Richard Litz

October 12..... Yachats, OR
October 13–21 (FOT)..... Yachats, OR

Mr. Robert Litz

October 12..... Yachats, OR
October 13–21 (FOT)..... Yachats, OR

Recorded Sermon Schedule

| Sermon # | Mailed | Played | Title |
|------------------|----------|----------|---|
| WSE-JWB 225-11 | 08-22-19 | 09-07-19 | Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #11 |
| RC 1988 (France) | 08-22-19 | 09-14-19 | Can We Endure? |
| WSE-JWB 225-12 | 08-22-19 | 09-21-19 | Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #12 |
| WSE-RC 90-18 | 09-12-19 | 09-28-19 | An Analysis of Jude #18 |
| WSE-JWB 225-13 | 09-12-19 | 10-05-19 | Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #13 |
| Fall Holy Days | — | — | FOT/LGD Sermons |
| WSE-JWB 225-14 | 09-12-19 | 10-26-19 | Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #14 |

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby