

Announcement Letter August 2020

Dear Brethren:

Every week it seems that we are waiting for another shoe to drop in the ongoing saga of fear-mongering over the coronavirus "pandemic." It is indeed a very interesting time to live, especially for God's people—the ones who have a unique sense for what is happening spiritually and the forces behind the scenes that are truly at play. We have always known that the time will come when God's people will face persecution, but it certainly seems more apparent just how such persecutions might actually come to pass. These worldly leaders and activists claim to be so modern and *progressive*, peace-loving and "inclusive," and yet what we see in reality are *armies of zealots* who are willing to persecute anyone who does not buy in to their radical ideologies. There truly is nothing new under the sun (Ecclesiastes 1:9), and for all of the claims of being so much more advanced in thinking, what we see in reality is *the heart of barbarism* just waiting to explode. These people have no moral anchor, and in time they will indeed justify *anything* to accomplish their aims. What God has prophesied for the last days is truly in the making (Matthew 24:21).

The faithful of God must be aware, and we must be converting that awareness into *spiritual action* to prepare our hearts and minds to be able to react in faith—not fear—when world events truly begin to assault our liberties and our privacy. With that in mind, it is a pleasure once again to address all of you who receive this *Letter*, and who value those principles that we were taught through chosen servants of God in times past.

We may be on the cusp of the time period when we will be required to sacrifice for our beliefs as never before. Even just the action of making it to the Feast of Tabernacles this year involves more planning and sacrifice (for many) than in any year before. It is going to require more and more faith—true confidence in God, backed up by courageous action—to do those things that are pleasing to Him. But it is through those humble and courageous actions that the people of God will increasingly *stand apart* from all others—the ones who cower, mince, and formulate excuses for hiding themselves from their spiritual responsibilities. We all lack the full faith of Jesus Christ, but God has promised to provide *the power that we need* to step out and to obey Him, if we are serious about our calling, and if we are truly keeping our eyes upon His promise of the Coming Kingdom of God. The day is coming when weak, maligned, and overlooked individuals are going to do exploits (Daniel 11:32). This is likely not referring to people given special powers to perform miracles, but more likely to those who *shine a great light* in this dark world just by fearlessly obeying their

God in spite of threat to life and limb. So many over the years have yearned to be part of some "miraculous Work." How about simply working on putting on more of the Holy Spirit, day by day, which will allow us to act with confidence and assurance at the moment when others are running for cover? You do not need "outward powers" to do that kind of exploit. No, all it takes is the kind of faith that loyal servants of the past—like Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, and the Evangelist Stephen—manifested under pressure, merely by *standing up to the mob* and refusing to compromise God's commandments. There is no reason in the world that every one of us cannot be in that category. Of ourselves it is absolutely impossible. But with Christ in us, nothing is impossible! May God grant us to begin stepping out as required, perhaps beginning with a voracious determination to appear before God to keep the Feasts of God that begin next month.

Feast of Tabernacles Site Updates

It is now confirmed that our Oregon Feast of Tabernacles site for 2020 will be in Eugene, Oregon. We were contacted by the Yachats Commons representative who basically cancelled our use of their facility for October. Since we have been able to find no ideal replacement venue in Oregon, we are making the decision now to use our own meeting facility in Eugene. Everyone can have confidence in making their reservations accordingly. As we stated in the July *Announcement Letter*, our meeting hall is much smaller than the Yachats Commons, so space will be an issue. With our preliminary head count of those of you who have already told us of your plans to be in Oregon, as well as those of you who "usually" attend in Oregon, we could certainly fit that many people in our meeting hall, but it would be "tight." If any of you have not already booked tickets for Oregon, and might consider attending in Tennessee instead, that would be one way of helping. We always prefer for each of our members to have full freedom to attend the Feast site of your choice, and that has never been a real issue until this year. If you want to come to Oregon, we still really want you to be able to do so. But if it does not matter that much to you one way or another, opting for Tennessee this year could be a "win-win" for all of us.

Excess Second Tithe

This is a reminder of the yearly need for second tithe to cover administrative and facility costs for the Feast. We want to reserve adequate for an enjoyable and meaningful Feast. At the same time, we all must remember, to keep the Feast requires the rental of halls, transportation, aid to those who are deserving, etc. If we all contribute, the burden for each is relatively small. A huge thanks to those whose hearts and minds are willing. May God richly and abundantly bless you in all ways.

Second Tithe Requests

Please be reminded that requests for second-tithe assistance for the Feast of Tabernacles need to be in by September 1. Any who need assistance should notify us in ample time.

New Moon

The new moon, Ellul (sixth month), begins Thursday evening, August 20. The new moon day is Friday, August 21.

Trip Schedule

Mr. Jon Brisby

September 19 (Trumpets) Danville, Illinois

September 28 (Atonement) Maryville, Tennessee

October 2–4 (FOT) Townsend, Tennessee

October 5–10 (FOT) Eugene, Oregon

Mr. Robert Burke

October 2–10 (FOT) Eugene, Oregon

Mr. Richard Litz

October 2–10 (FOT) Townsend, Tennessee

Mr. Robert Litz

October 2–10 (FOT) Townsend, Tennessee

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-JWB 225-27	07-16-20	08-01-20	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #27
WSE-RC 92-9	07-16-20	08-08-20	What Is Essential for Eternal Life? #9
WSE-RC 92-10	07-16-20	08-15-20	What Is Essential for Eternal Life? #10
WSE-RC 92-11	08-06-20	08-22-20	What Is Essential for Eternal Life? #11
WSE-JWB 242	08-06-20	08-29-20	Will You Be Respected?
WSE-JWB 225-28	08-06-20	09-05-20	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #28
WSE-RC 92-12	08-27-20	09-12-20	What Is Essential for Eternal Life? #12

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby