

Announcement Letter September 2020

Dear Brethren:

What if there were a *real* viral pandemic threatening the world? Not just one that seems to be *a bit more* virulent than the seasonal flu, but one that actually kills the healthy as well as the weak, the young as well as the aged, and one that spreads in spite of very limited human contact? What then? What if there were a legitimate likelihood of dying by going out of your home—not just a one-percent chance, but perhaps, a forty-percent chance, just for example? In that case, there would be little debate about the lethality of the threat. The only real question asked by citizens and their government officials alike would be, "What do we do about it?"

In that scenario, fear would rule the nations, personal liberties would be suspended in the name of "public health and safety," and anyone refusing to comply with draconian measures—including mandatory vaccinations—would be treated as an enemy of the state. There would be no real debate about whether the government was "spinning" the news to achieve some nefarious end. Fear would drive the masses like lemmings, and they would run in lockstep to "follow the leader" in hopes of being saved from imminent disaster.

If this scenario were our *true reality* in this particular month of September, how many of God's people would still choose to show up for the Feast of Tabernacles? Probably not very many. Fear is a powerful force, and the fearful—those seeking to save themselves physically from either death or persecution—would rationalize it and ask God to "be excused." In that case, the size of the convocation assembled in a designated place to worship God might be very small indeed. Would you be there? If not, why not? Fear of being arrested? Fear of catching the virus? Fear of being ostracized by family, who would then not let you return home and endanger them, because you insisted on going out and attending "that church thing of yours"?

Who would prevent you from appearing before God and making your offerings to Him? Would you even try, or would you assume that it is "impossible" and just stay home?

Well, we are not in that kind of dire circumstance right now. What is called the COVID-19 pandemic is nothing like the scenario described above. And yet, many people are responding exactly as has been described, choosing to serve fear. What about you?

You are the called people of God, the ones afforded the most precious promises of a loving Heavenly Father. The world has no choice but to fend for itself, but with you, it is not so! This loving God has promised to fight for you and to provide for every need. You are not subject to time and chance, and there is no threat—human, viral, or otherwise—that can harm you if God does not specifically permit it for reason. If you believe that is true (because the Holy Spirit is strong within you), then you will be among the few who will make a priority of keeping God's commanded Feasts no matter what the panicked masses around you are doing. If that is your mindset, it means that you are acting in exactly the kind of faith that God requires of us all. "With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

With that in mind, enclosed in this mailing is a copy of an historic article from *The GOOD NEWS* magazine, published by the Worldwide Church of God in August 1969. It was written by Mr. Dibar Apartian—one of the early and respected ministers under Mr. Herbert Armstrong—and entitled, *Have You Had the Mumps Yet?* The value of this article for all of us today is to confirm, 1) What was the faith once delivered about the cause of all human illnesses, including "childhood diseases," and, 2) How should God's people treat modern medicine, especially vaccinations? It is certain that the other Church of God groups out there do not agree with this article. These other ministers are not practicing the principles found here, and they certainly are not teaching their members even the most basic elements of Mr. Armstrong's inspiration from Jesus Christ. Again, we ask, what about you?

There will be more instruction coming to you in the months ahead, confirming God's revealed Truth concerning health and healing. It seems time to repeat many of these principles that have been preserved in this little remnant group for over forty years. No one else seems to care about them. But we do. And we intend to remind you all of the truth about God's role as our Defender, our Doctor, and our Healer. These are principles that may have everything to do with your salvation, and in light of the fearful geopolitical climate that exists today, the people of God need to be armed with that critical saving knowledge.

In the meantime, may your plans and preparations for this Holy Day season be blessed, and may God truly manifest His love and mercy toward you as you work to put Him first in your lives. Those of us who are called to serve you today in Christ's name salute you as the priceless children of God, and we relish the chance to aid you, even in very small ways, in your spiritual walks with God.

New Moon

The new moon, Tishri (seventh month), begins Friday evening, September 18. The new moon day is Sabbath, September 19.

Holy Days

Feast of Trumpets	September 19
Atonement	September 28
Feast of Tabernacles	October 2 (evening service)–9
Last Great Day	October 10

Feast of Tabernacles

In Eugene, OR, the Feast will be held at the church hall, located at 780 Bailey Hill Rd, Suite #6.

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.

Monthly Letter

Since the Feast of Tabernacles falls too early in the month to allow enough time to prepare a *Monthly Letter*, there will be no letter for October.

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
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Mr. Richard Litz

October 2–10 (FOT)	Townsend, Tennessee
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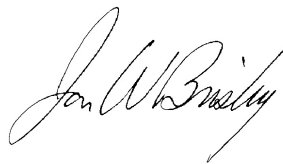
Mr. Robert Litz

October 2–10 (FOT)	Townsend, Tennessee
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Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
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
Feast of Trumpets	—	09-19-20	Holy Day Sermons
WSE-JWB 243	08-27-20	09-26-20	How to Preserve the Union
Atonement/FOT	—	—	Holy Day Sermons
WSE-RC 92-13	08-27-20	10-17-20	What Is Essential for Eternal Life? #13
WSE-JWB 225-29	09-17-20	10-24-20	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #29
WSE-RC 92-14	09-17-20	10-31-20	What Is Essential for Eternal Life? #14
WSE-JWB 225-30	09-17-20	11-07-20	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #30
WSE-JWB 225-31	10-22-20	11-14-20	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #31

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby