

Announcement Letter November 2020

Dear Brethren:

In this first letter to all of you since returning home from keeping the Feast of Tabernacles, we greet you with our very sincere love and appreciation. No matter where you live—or how isolated physically you may be—rest assured that you are a critical member of this little flock, and God helping us, we will never take you for granted.

The only reason that we have survived as a remnant body for so long is that God has worked so actively with many of you individually around the globe through His Holy Spirit. If not for your personal expressions of love and sacrifice for God's revealed Truth, how would we ever be able to exist as a collective body? We would not! The Church only exists if there are individual members, motivated by God's indwelling Spirit, who manifest the light of Jesus Christ in their personal choices, day by day. Your support for the organized body of believers is one key indication of your personal conviction about God's Work, and because so many of you have been ardent and reliable supporters of that ideal, we have been able to continue our work on your behalf to feed the flock and to seek to preserve that Way of Life from falling to the ground. Most of all, we remember that this is not the work of any man, but truly the work of a purposeful God, and He indeed is carrying out a master Plan upon this earth according to His pleasure. You are each a part of that glorious Work, so please never doubt your importance or your value.

We are thankful for another very blessed opportunity to celebrate before God to keep His commanded Feast. This is perhaps the first year in our modern time when we were faced with *worldly pressures* which could have threatened our peaceful assemblies. It certainly did affect the ability of a number of our members in attending the Feast, for those who were physically prevented from crossing a border to be at one of those designated places. Thankfully, most of you were able to attend, even if some of you had to be very creative and overcome many obstacles in order to travel. Thank you for those examples of faith and determination to put God first. In the end, we did not receive any contact or pressure from local authorities during our Feast assemblies around the world, and we thank God for another year in which we were able to convoke in peace.

Current world events remind us more and more never to assume that we will have such blessings in the future. We have always known and have been taught that the day will come when God's people will indeed face persecution for insisting upon obeying God's commands. We now have an opportunity to see how possibly those conditions could actually

coalesce and result in persecution of the faithful. May God keep us and sustain us in pleasing Him and obeying fearlessly those immutable principles which make God's true people stand apart from the world.

At the time of this writing, we are a week away from the USA presidential election. By the time all of you actually read this letter, that election will likely be completed and we should know a little more about what is in store. However, never forget that it matters not what particular human being holds an office within these governments of men. God is the One who sets up and takes down every one of them, not any "voters." Likewise, there is no "white knight" who will save us from the persecutions and tribulations that God has determined to bring upon all nations. Please be sure not to set your hopes upon human political maneuverings. We can keep abreast of what is happening, but never allow yourself to be enticed into "picking a side." Our nations are in decline and will surely be humbled by God because of our gross national sins. If a particular individual seems to "hold back the tide" a little more than another, we are still, metaphorically, existing in this world on a *sinking ship*. And if a new captain of that ship drives us even faster to doom toward a field of icebergs, that too is part of God's doing. In the end, the decline and destruction of our "free nations" is a critical part of God's Work among men. It has to be done. And if our hope truly is in the Coming Kingdom of God under the rulership of Jesus Christ, then no matter what the latest political news, we can respond with steadiness and confidence. More than ever we are required to live by faith, not by sight. May God grant the real regime change we all seek!

Death

It saddens us to announce the death of Mr. Ronald Wilson of Kentwood, Michigan, on October 4. Ron had been recovering from a stroke due to high blood pressure but was determined to put it in God's hands and was able to make it to the Feast. He was 58 years of age at the time of his death. We send our deep condolences to his wife, Beate, and his sons, Daniel and Nathaniel.

Beate, Daniel, and Nathaniel sent a message to the brethren: "We are very thankful to the ministry and lay members for all their support we received through prayers, kind words and deeds, hugs, stories of their own grief, cards and more. It made us stronger! We appreciate the ongoing prayers and thoughts for our family."

Feast Reports

Don Carlos, Bukidnon, Philippines: With all the things that are happening around the world today, the church is facing so many challenges, especially in celebrating God's commanded Feasts. This, however, did not hinder us from celebrating the most important Feast, the Feast of Tabernacles. Since the brethren from other places could not come to the Feast site here in Don Carlos, Bukidnon, we were blessed to come up with an idea to celebrate the first day, picnic, and the Last Great Day in Salumay, Davao. With doing this, the brethren from Davao and the brethren from Bukidnon could meet halfway and celebrate the Feast without any restrictions. During the middle of the Feast, we had a dry picnic and enjoyed the weather with karaoke.

We were indeed blessed to have celebrated God's Feast with both physical and spiritual food in a wonderful place where the brethren enjoyed the cold weather and picturesque view. We were also very thankful for having access to the church's media archive online because we were able to listen to the pre-recorded messages.

The Last Great Day was definitely another memorable day for everyone. After the whole day service, we had a small program with games for the kids and everyone enjoyed karaoke along with great food. It is with a joyful heart that we can always say we had the best Feast ever.

Hartenbos, South Africa: We are thrilled to report to you on our Feast here in South Africa. Despite the restrictions, and disappointment, we were blessed to find a lovely, comfortable house to rent in Hartenbos for the four members here in SA. It is a bustling seaside town, with stunning scenery, a seaside walkway and ample shops and restaurants close at hand.

We all arrived safely on Friday afternoon, a cold and rainy beginning to the Feast, but were warmed by the cozy fireplace, and warmed in heart by the sermons, fellowship and sense of togetherness. As the days cleared, we were able to go out on some drives, and to share some delicious meals together. We also enjoyed a trip on an inspection trolley train, and sedately saw some more stunning views along the coastline. Though few in number, we experienced God's blessings and unity in His Spirit. The sermons, which were informative and inspiring, gave us much food for thought and topics for discussion. We all agreed that it is indeed a privilege to be a part of God's remnant Church, by His calling, purpose and will. We went our separate ways, encouraged, and rejoicing in His abundant mercy, grace and instruction.

Devonport, Tasmania, Australia: The Feast in Tasmania went very smoothly, and even though we were a very small group, we had an inspiring assembly before God. Besides the inspiring spiritual parts, we also had some fun together and did some adventuring around the north coast of the island. We did miss the other brethren for sure, but generally it worked out well. The main thing is that we observed a commanded Feast and had the benefits that go with it both spiritually and physically.

Suna-Migori, Kenya: Thanks to God for this wonderful time He has given us to be able to keep the Feast of Tabernacles this year too, even though many challenges are all over the world. We started the Feast well with 45 people, and then some came after three days. The reason we did not communicate during the Feast is that we have been having problems with electricity in our town. The Feast was peaceful and members were very happy. We thank you for your dedication to serve and help us all these years that we have been with this small remnant group. May God continue to give you a kind heart and long life. The total number in attendance this year was 75 adults and 20 children. God blessed us with rain part of the Feast and we were happy. May God bless you all.

Kandersteg, Switzerland: In spite of the difficult circumstances in the world, we were very blessed to be able to gather for the Feast of Tabernacles in Kandersteg with brethren from Switzerland, Spain, France, and the USA, and we enjoyed a beautiful Feast. We were glad not to be required to wear masks in the meeting hall nor in the village's shops, which really helped us to leave aside all the worries of this world. (It became mandated the day after we left).

We were a total of 22 members, and appreciated Mr. Jon Brisby's translated messages on "Warnings to the Last Day Church" as well as Mr. Jean Aviolat's series on "The Kingdom of God" and the "Power of Success," among others.

Although we had quite gray and cold weather during the first part of the Feast, we were still able to enjoy nice walks or hikes, and for some: bike rides, electric scooter, games as well as indoor climbing. It was quite special to get snow, even down in the valley on the First High Day, which gave us beautiful scenery of white mountain tops as soon as the sun came out.

We had a very entertaining and joyful social afternoon. We sang songs, solved riddles, answered some Bible trivia questions, played Pictionary, and watched a beautiful animal and wildlife slide show. We also enjoyed a very pleasant meal that evening with traditional Swiss folk music. A *raclette* meal replaced the traditional *fondue* and was organized in a barn with straw rows on the walls, specially arranged for the occasion by the restaurant.

We send our love and best wishes to all the brethren scattered around the globe.

Townsend, Tennessee: With all the difficulties due to the virus, it was a relief to have a beautiful and peaceful place to meet for the Feast in Tennessee. There were 86 in attendance and the weather was mild and gorgeous with the leaves just beginning to turn their lovely fall colors. Everyone remained healthy and in good spirits and the staff at the Barn went out of their way to provide us with a safe place to meet with no masks required. We appreciated the good sermons, the special music, the tasty catered meals and the warm fellowship which all contributed to an outstanding Feast experience.

Eugene, Oregon: For the first time in thirty-seven years, the Feast was observed in Eugene, Oregon. The last time it had been kept in Eugene was 1982. Eighty-four brethren attended this year. We enjoyed beautiful, temperate weather for the duration, which was conducive to outdoor activities such as hiking and day trips to the beach. The brethren also enjoyed one another's company at two catered meals, a pancake brunch, and the Family Social/Potluck. Many also gathered at one another's homes for fellowship and meals. God mercifully protected our assemblies and gatherings from any outside attention of local authorities. The sermons from Mr. Jon Brisby and Mr. Robert Burke provided much instruction and inspiration for the coming year. A big thank you to Mr. Charles Armstrong for his hard work in providing the pancake brunch, as well as Mr-s. Ryan Armstrong for coordinating the Family Social.

New Moon

The new moon, Kislev (ninth month), begins Monday evening, November 16. The new moon day is Tuesday, November 17.

Trip Schedule

Mr. Jon Brisby

November 7 Maryville, Tennessee

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
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
WSE-RC 92-15	10-22-20	11-21-20	What Is Essential for Eternal Life? #15
WSE-JWB 245	10-22-20	11-28-20	Post-Feast Momentum
WSE-RC 92-16	11-12-20	12-05-20	What Is Essential for Eternal Life? #16
WSE JWB 247	11-12-20	12-12-20	Does God Pick on Women?
WSE-RC 92-17	11-12-20	12-19-20	What Is Essential for Eternal Life? #17

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby