

## **Announcement Letter June 2021**

Dear Brethren:

As soon as Pentecost is completed, we always begin looking immediately to the next Holy Day season—especially the Feast of Tabernacles—and this year is no exception. Here in the church home office in Eugene, we are going through all of the checklists that are important for our preparations, and praying mightily that God will bless our endeavors to serve all of you to the very best of our abilities. Actually, our natural "abilities" are woefully inadequate, but with God's continued divine help and special inspiration, we are confident that we will once again be able to fulfill His will and to show honor to Him as a collective body in holy convocation, even in the midst of these dreadfully dark days. The morality of this world is declining rapidly with each passing day, but that just means that the light of God's faithful people has a chance to shine brighter and brighter when we are determined to pull out all stops to obey His Commandments. Thank you for letting us be a part of your spiritual lives as we all strive toward that glorious end.

### **Deaths**

Our minister and faithful member of the Church of God for 52 years, Mr. Robert Litz, of Inver Grove Heights, MN, died quietly in his home surrounded by his family, Saturday night, May 8. He had been suffering for several months from congestive heart problems, so his rest now is actually a blessing. We will all miss his sermons, letters, and unceasing service. He was 80 years of age at the time of his death. He has three brothers, including his twin brother, Richard, and one sister.

Just one week later, Saturday, May 15, his dear wife, Nancy, also died suddenly of the recent virus. She was 78 years of age at the time of her death. She has one sister, Bonnie. This dedicated couple were married 56 years. We offer our condolences to their children, Mike and Marcy, granddaughter, Sara, their siblings and extended family. The warm friendliness and sociability of both Robert and Nancy will be greatly missed.

On a personal note, Robert and Nancy Litz were both good friends to many within this remnant fellowship. They left us a legacy of determined belief in the original doctrines that God delivered to His Church, with an outpouring of themselves for many years to support and to serve God's people, both physically and spiritually. They will not be forgotten.

We have lost a number of important members of the church in recent years. But lest some of you begin to worry that this is a troubling sign, just remember that God has sustained this remnant church for over forty-six years, and He has done so through all manner of volatile physical changes and spiritual challenges. The faces of those who now sit in our Sabbath and Holy Day services are mostly very different from those who did so in the 1970s. It is true of both laymembers and ministers. It is as if the church is comparable to a series of undergraduate classes which begin as freshmen and then progress over several years toward graduation. At any given time, students from all levels co-mingle together, but eventually, the senior class graduates, and others take its place in a never-ending cycle of matriculation. Those who die in the faith are like the graduating classes in God's School. We hate to see them go, but they have finished their courses, and it is needful for them (according to God's will) to move on. But there is always a trickle of new converts who make up the new freshman class, and along with the remaining upperclassmen, the education cycle continues with more and more of God's called children becoming the beneficiaries of that spiritual training.

The physical size of this remnant church (this particular university) has stayed fairly consistent over all of these years, with temporary periods of contraction in our numbers being followed quickly by new growth to fill our ranks once again. That cycle has been repeated time and time again over the past four decades, and it appears to be happening once again. While we all mourn the loss of our dear friends who were such anchors in this church in past years, we also look forward in hope as we see God's hand in continuing the process of bringing new children into that training program, and providing us the chance to carry forward that very same legacy of spiritual academic excellence by holding firm to the principles of God's revealed curriculum.

Some of you who were once freshmen (novices) a few years ago should now have enough experience under your belts to be able to act as senior class leaders. The more you have learned and absorbed the principles of God's study program, the more you have to offer new ones who are just beginning on their own personal paths of learning. God has always filled every void when we needed it most, and we are confident that if we continue to prioritize His revealed Truth above all else, He will continue to bless us and to sustain us for as long as it is His will to keep this spiritual university program in session.

## **Thank You**

Mrs. Denise Gil of Sevilla, Spain, would like to thank all the brethren for their expressions of sympathy—through cards, messages or phone calls—upon the loss of her husband, Antonio, who died peacefully at the age of 87 on April 22.

"Thank you for praying God to help me to accept and manage my new circumstances after 57 years of marriage. Alone, I must continue to walk in the faith once delivered in order to be reunited someday with all our beloved ones who are at rest. With all my gratitude and affection to everyone."

### **Scheduling Emcees, Opening and Closing Prayers**

We are beginning preparation of printed schedules for the Feast of Tabernacles, so we need to know as soon as possible if any will be attending at a different Feast site than usual. We must soon begin work on the scheduling of emcees and those who give opening and closing prayers. We thank you in advance for your help.

### **New Moons**

The new moon, Tammuz (fourth month), begins Thursday evening, June 10. The new moon day is Friday, June 11.

The new moon, Ab (fifth month), begins Friday evening, July 9. The new moon day is Sabbath, July 10.

### **Feast of Tabernacles**

Please take note that the weekly Sabbath services on September 18, will be held in Townsend, TN, and in Otter Rock, OR, since the Feast of Tabernacles will begin the evening of Monday, September 20. Please make your plans and reservations accordingly.

### **Trip Schedule**

#### **Jon W. Brisby**

July 3 ..... (Camp Tejas), Trout Creek, Montana

#### **Richard Litz**

July 12 ..... Cary, North Carolina

July 17 ..... Monroe, North Carolina

## Recorded Sermon Schedule

| Sermon #       | Mailed   | Played   | Title  |
|----------------|----------|----------|--|
| WSE-RC 46-4    | 05-06-21 | 05-29-21 | Marriage and Separation #4                               |
| WSE-JWB 256    | 05-06-21 | 06-05-21 | Are They for Us or Against Us?                           |
| WSE-RC 66-1    | 05-06-21 | 06-12-21 | Where Is Christ Since His Personal Days in the Flesh? #1 |
| WSE-JWB 225-37 | 05-27-21 | 06-19-21 | Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #37          |
| WSE-RC 66-2    | 05-27-21 | 06-26-21 | Where Is Christ Since His Personal Days in the Flesh? #2 |
| WSE-RC 66-3    | 05-27-21 | 07-03-21 | Where Is Christ Since His Personal Days in the Flesh? #3 |
| WSE-JWB 225-38 | 06-17-21 | 07-10-21 | Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #38          |
| WSE-RC 66-4    | 06-17-21 | 07-17-21 | Where Is Christ Since His Personal Days in the Flesh? #4 |

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In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby