

## Announcement Letter October 2021

Dear Brethren:

Having just returned home from the Feast of Tabernacles, we are rushing to prepare this letter for all of you, and pray that you are well and thriving in God's loving care.

It was such a blessing to be able to keep the Feast once again in peace and tranquility, and every early report is that our brethren around the world enjoyed very blessed assemblies. In the November issue of this *Letter*, we will provide official Feast reports from every area, but it is a pleasure to give you "early returns" now and to confirm that all seems to have gone very smoothly. We are indeed dependent upon God more and more for our protection and safety, and in spite of the increasing challenges we are facing to be able to travel and to assemble, many of you *soldiered on* to do just that.

For those of you who were unable to attend a designated Feast site, you are all much in our thoughts and prayers, and we pray that you will be able to attend those Feasts that will come next year, God willing. There are always a number of sincere brethren who are prevented by circumstances beyond their control from making that journey to a designated place, whether it be severe physical disability or even a closed international border. In those cases, God certainly looks upon the heart and knows that it was not because of a lack of planning, fear, or anything else that stood in the way. On the other hand, there are always a certain number of ones that we love who do indeed make personal mistakes that are the cause of their absence. If this is the category that any of you fall into, it is not the unpardonable sin, but understand that it could become just that, if proper personal assessment is not made, and provision to do better next time is not implemented.

Please understand that the command in the autumn season to "keep the Feast" means traveling to a place where God has placed His name, and offering your sacrifices of respect and fellowship *right there*. There is no such thing as "keeping the Feast at home."

Thou mayest not eat within thy gates the tithe of thy corn, or of thy wine, or of thy oil, or the firstlings of thy herds or of thy flock, nor any of thy vows which thou vowest, nor thy freewill offerings, or heave offering of thine hand: But thou must eat them before the LORD thy God in the place which the LORD thy God shall choose, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that is within thy gates: and thou shalt

rejoice before the LORD thy God in all that thou puttest thine hands unto (Deuteronomy 12:17–18).

Please never make the mistake of thinking that you "kept" the Feast in any other way but personal attendance *before God*. Likewise, understand that God does not place His name in every place that men choose to have "a Feast site." Did any of you choose to "keep the Feast" with a group who is not holding to the original doctrines of God? God calls His apostate children *Baal worshippers*, when they attempt to keep some of the Truth but have polluted the doctrine with all manner of false teachings. In the last days, someone is still holding "solemn Feasts," but God hates them and refuses to appear there (Isaiah 1:11–15; Amos 5:21–23). What good is it to attend a "Feast" that God hates? One would be better off staying at home.

So as we all look forward to the months ahead, it is good that we should do some personal soul searching, evaluating our past choices, and seeing where we have opportunity to improve. We all desperately need God's mercy, longsuffering, and patience against our sins and weaknesses. Thankfully, He is ever willing to forgive when we acknowledge our guilt and ask sincerely for forgiveness. And then, the proof of our repentance is in making better choices in the years to come. Never forget that the proper keeping of Sabbaths and Holy Days is *the singular sign* between God and His people (Exodus 31:13; Ezekiel 20:12, 20). It includes both the weekly and the annual Sabbaths, and it means keeping them on the *correct days* as God revealed, not the days that seem right to man by his own wisdom.

As we get closer to the return of Jesus Christ, it is going to get harder—not easier—to *fully keep* God's Sabbaths by faithfully stepping out and appearing before Him in designated places. And it very likely will be a key test that God uses to separate the sheep from the goats, because it has everything to do with recognizing where Christ is truly working, and also showing who has the faith to step out and *to go*, even in the face of physical threats.

May we all meditate upon these points and make wise choices in the coming year. You are the called children of God. Because of that special calling, you are some of the few who have *the capability* to fulfill these commands. The world cannot do it, and those who have departed from the original Faith cannot do it until they repent fully. Until then, may God grant each one of you the will and determination to be some of those few, bright lights in this very dark world.

## Deaths

Mr. Frank Sheffold of Springfield, OR, died Sunday, September 12, of a flu-like illness. Frank had been declining in health the last few years and was unable to attend church. He was a long-time member of the church and served as a deacon for many years. He was 84 years of age at the time of his death. He was preceded in death by his wife, Lavonne. We offer our sincere condolences to his son, Frank, Jr., his daughter, Susan, and his extended family.

Our minister in the Philippines, Mr. Mario Roque, died Thursday, September 2. His daughter, Mariel, said that he was buried the day before the Feast of Trumpets. She said that they will miss him so much, but God is perfect in His will and purpose. She added that despite the very sad situation, they still celebrated the Feast of Trumpets with cheerfulness. She stated:

Here are the family's words about our father:

Our father was the best father one can have. He was a great provider and a good teacher. We are very thankful for everything he did for us, especially for teaching us to be good, do good and fear God. We lost a wonderful and kind leader in the church here in the Philippines.

## Monthly Letter

The *Monthly Letter* for October will be an archived letter from Mr. Raymond Cole, written October of 1975.

## New Moons

The new moon, Heshvan (eighth month), begins Wednesday evening, October 6. The new moon day is Thursday, October 7.

The new moon, Kislev (ninth month), begins Thursday evening, November 4. The new moon day is Friday, November 5.

## Recorded Sermon Schedule

| Sermon #       | Mailed   | Played   | Title   |
|----------------|----------|----------|---|
| WSE-RC 66-9    | 08-19-21 | 10-02-21 | Where Is Christ Since His Personal Days in the Flesh? #9  |
| WSE-JWB 225-41 | 09-09-21 | 10-09-21 | Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #41           |
| WSE-JWB 225-42 | 09-09-21 | 10-16-21 | Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #42           |
| WSE-RC 66-10   | 09-09-21 | 10-23-21 | Where Is Christ Since His Personal Days in the Flesh? #10 |
| WSE-RC 66-11   | 10-07-21 | 10-30-21 | Where Is Christ Since His Personal Days in the Flesh? #11 |
| WSE-RC 66-12   | 10-07-21 | 11-06-21 | Where Is Christ Since His Personal Days in the Flesh? #12 |
| WSE-RC 66-13   | 10-07-21 | 11-13-21 | Where Is Christ Since His Personal Days in the Flesh? #13 |

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby