

Announcement Letter November 2019

Dear Brethren:

It is always an inspiration to complete our obligations before God—especially the extra challenges of attending the Feast of Tabernacles—and then to return home and realize that we were blessed once again—one more year, with peace and tranquility in making our offerings before Him. We understand that it will not always be so, but for now, the special blessing to worship God without persecution continues for the true people of God. With that in mind, it is also a blessing to greet all of you in this *Letter* and to express our heartfelt thanks to all of you who contribute to making our Feast assemblies so positive. When God's Spirit is present, the fruits are positive. Enclosed are brief reports from our major Feast sites which we hope will be of interest to you. We did indeed enjoy a genuine and unforced level of unity with all of those who came together to keep the Feast. Many thanks for your valuable participation in that enriching experience.

Now that we are returned to our homes, the reality of our lives in this world often presents a shocking contrast to that which we experienced at the Feast. One common result from being thrust back into the world is some level of "post-Feast blues." Not only is it difficult to maintain that positive, energized focus upon spiritual things, but the possibility (even likelihood) of falling into bad personal habits once we return home again can be very discouraging. The world exerts its influence, and we are easily seduced into compromise in many areas of life. If not very careful, new Feast resolutions of growing closer to God can easily be neutralized. Finding it difficult to make the changes in our lives that we know we must—the ones that seemed more possible during that short reprieve at the Feast—can sometimes boomerang into even more self-doubt, disgust, and feelings of fatalism. That is all very common, and even likely for many.

The solution is to force ourselves to remember what we are here for, and to keep fighting the carnal impulse to give in and "go with the flow." Yes, it is always hard to overcome and to resist sin. No, it will never become easy to quench that carnal mind. But with our determination never to justify ourselves, God has promised to help us fight through and achieve a new and better spiritual level than we had before. So let us all be sure never to give up on ourselves, never succumb to defeatist thoughts, and never doubt that we serve a God who loves us in spite of ourselves, and who is ever willing to forgive us, lift us up, and help propel us to think and to act the way His dear Son showed us. You are all lights in a very dark world. Your battles are significant, and they will get harder, not easier, in times to come. But you have every reason for optimism, and every reason to hope, if you are determined to grab onto that "Feast spirit" and never let it go. We can do this. God says so.

New Moon

The new moon, Kislev (ninth month), begins Thursday evening, November 28. The new moon day is Friday, November 29.

Feast Reports

Don Carlos, Mindanao, Philippines: Brethren from the Philippines observed a great and joyous festival at this year's Feast of Tabernacles. Our festival activities were accompanied by wonderful sunny weather and scattered rain. We had many spiritual and physical blessings. We also had delightful shows, great choirs, games, a dance and a family picnic. The brethren reaped the benefits from great fellowship, festival activities, and most especially, the inspiring sermons. The messages heard during the Feast have great spiritual significance in our labor toward perfection in Christ. Our young men are frequently encouraged to be resolute in upholding the faith once delivered, understanding that many of our elderly members who came out of our derailed parent organization are not going to be here forever. The Filipino brethren extend our warmest love to the brethren scattered around this globe.

Yachats, Oregon: There were fifty-five people attending in Yachats this year. Some of our members were visiting other sites this year which made it a more quiet, calm Feast. The smaller group also provided a better opportunity to visit with and get to know one another better. The weather was warm and beautiful at the beginning of the Feast, but then a storm moved in from the ocean and it turned rainy and blustery, which is characteristic of the Oregon coast in late fall, but it did not dampen the peaceful warmth and positive attitudes. The Feast Social was enjoyable, with Mr. Mark Jebb giving us a perspicuous lesson in the difference between British and American humor, all done in good witty fun. We had plenty of pizza for everyone this year! But the spiritual food was even better, because the inspired sermons were very much needed to fortify us for the year ahead. We send our love and best wishes to all of the brethren worldwide.

Townsend, Tennessee: A group of one hundred twenty-nine attended the Feast in Townsend, Tennessee, in the Smoky Mountains. The weather was pleasant most days, with sunshine and mild temperatures. Various gatherings were held at brethren's cabins, as well as some organized group activities at the meeting hall (painting, knitting, and a juice tasting bar). There was also an afternoon of outdoor games, including croquet, pickleball, corn hole, and frisbee. The sermons provided much encouragement and a reminder of our future purpose, and the special music was especially beautiful—all of the elements needed to make it an inspiring Feast for all.

Suna-Migori, Kenya: Greetings to you from Kenya, with much hope that all were well in each Feast site. Here, we were fine, and we finished the Feast very well with a total number of eighty-nine in Suna Migori. We had rain from the first day till the Last Great Day. Eight people were baptized during the Feast. God has been good to us all these years, and God is calling those who need to be taught meat in due season. We would like to thank all the brethren who sacrificed their second tithe to enable us to keep the Feast in Kenya, and we pray that they will continue having that spirit of helping others.

Port Sorrell, Tasmania, Australia: The Feast of Tabernacles, 2019, in Tasmania was a wonderful time of unity, fellowship and spiritual feasting. We were eleven members who attended, five of whom are South Africans, as there was no Feast site in South Africa this year. It was a small group gathered at Rooster's Rest, Port Sorrell, Tasmania, for the daily services, and some social occasions, but the sense of blessing and love was tangible. The ladies provided delicious meals to suit everyone's taste, but the best Food was the sermons by Mr. Brisby, as well as Mr. Burke's series from 2018. We were all challenged, encouraged and edified, as it was necessary to dig deeper to examine ourselves. There were some organized group activities: ten-pin bowling, walks, hikes, outings and shopping excursions . . . all great fun with friends of like minds. The weather was cool for the most part, but we were blessed with some beautiful sunny days, and the rain did not hinder us from having a truly enjoyable time together. Too soon, it was time to pack up and wish each other Godspeed, and head back to our homes. What a blessed and amazing time it was!

Kandersteg, Switzerland: The European brethren celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles in Kandersteg, Switzerland for the forty-first time. This year, they were a small group of fifteen people, as part of the membership chose to attend the Tennessee Feast site. The weather was autumn-like, with a little rain some days, but also sunshine, and snow on the uppermost mountain peaks which surround the village. On Wednesday afternoon, the group went down to the valley for some refreshments and a walk on the shores of Thun Lake. On Thursday evening, they had their traditional fondue dinner at the usual restaurant. They appreciated Mr. Jon Brisby's translated messages on "Do We Believe His Prayer?," as well as the series that Mr. Jean Aviolat delivered, entitled "At the Appointed Times." The church in Europe sends its regards to all their brethren around the globe who share the same beliefs and the same Truth as revealed from the beginning.

Trip Schedule

Mr. Jon Brisby

November 23..... Sydney, Australia
December 28..... Don Carlos, Mindanao, Philippines

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-JWB 225-14	09-12-19	10-26-19	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #14
WSE-RC 90-19	10-03-19	11-02-19	An Analysis of Jude #19
WSE-JWB 232	10-03-19	11-09-19	Broken Toys
WSE-RC 90-20	10-03-19	11-16-19	An Analysis of Jude #20
WSE-JWB 225-15	10-24-19	11-23-19	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #15
WSE-RC 90-21	10-24-19	11-30-19	An Analysis of Jude #21
WSE-RC 90-22	10-24-19	12-07-19	An Analysis of Jude #22
WSE-JWB 225-16	11-28-19	12-14-19	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #16

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby