

RADIO CHURCH OF GOD

Box 345, P.O.,
NORTH SYDNEY, N.S.W.

1961

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PRESIDENT and PASTOR

Broadcasting
The WORLD TOMORROW

Publishers of
The PLAIN TRUTH

OFFICE OF
GERALD D. WATERHOUSE, Minister

Dear Brethren:

GREETINGS in the name of Jesus Christ our Saviour and the Living HEAD of God's Church!

I have most important news for you. Christ has moved and has opened up a wonderful "door" or opportunity for us to keep the Feast of Tabernacles in a most ideal place this year! Right in the Blue Mountains---in BLACKHEATH!

Just as it became more evident a few weeks ago that we could not adequately observe the Feast of Tabernacles in Sydney---due to size of auditorium, problems with accommodations and distance most have to travel each day---the door was opened to the largest and best equipped auditorium I have seen in New South Wales.

It is located in the large Community Center building in Blackheath. At first sight, we were amazed that such an adequate auditorium existed in a small town outside of Sydney in the Blue Mountains. The advantages offered are far more ideal than what we have experienced in the hall presently utilized.

Seating capacity of the hall is 600, it is equipped with cushioned chairs and has fine kitchen facilities. The acoustics are superb, there is a thermostatically controlled electric heating system and the lighting system is uniquely designed. Also, there are several nice rooms in which counseling can be carried on and in which the recreational needs of the children can be met.

At the side of this fine auditorium is a large glassed-in vestibule, opening up to a large park---ideal for our needs! This park comprises about one-half acre of neatly-kept land in which there are scores of benches and a number of swings for the children. In addition, it is in a non-congested area, offering us peace, quiet and beauty to make the Feast of Tabernacles more enjoyable.

The Blue Mountain area around Blackheath and Katoomba offers many opportunities to make our stay there a most enjoyable one. There are unlimited opportunities for hiking in the beautiful mountains in the area. Horseback riding facilities will be available for those who would care to ride on the many trails and bridle paths. Scenic rides on buses in the area are also available. Katoomba is within easy driving distance---7 miles---plus many other points of interest in the area. God has certainly provided a very wonderful and inspiring location for His Feast of Tabernacles in Australia!

Brethren, isn't it significant that at the very time when such a need arose, God led us to such an ideal place? We could not ask for better facilities or have more inspiring surroundings than what God has provided. Not only are the above described facilities available but there are numerous hotels, guest homes and motels in the area. Too, just when it will be needed, a large motel is to be constructed right near the auditorium---it will be finished just in time to supply our needs for the Feast of Tabernacles next year! We can manage without this motel this year but it will be needed by next year. God does cause things to come about to supply the needs of His people.

Adequate accommodations would always be available if it were not for tourists who come to the area during holidays. For this reason, when the Feast of Tabernacles falls at a time when there are holidays, it is not always possible to book the most suitable facilities. This year the Feast of Tabernacles runs into the Six-Hour Holiday which presents a problem. But, God has seen our needs and has made provision for them!

God has through circumstances seen that sufficient accommodations for His people were left open in a large, unlicensed hotel and in a private guest home. All other hotels and guest homes were unable to offer us workable arrangements.

Let me explain. All licensed hotels offer full board only, the same policy is followed by most guest homes. But such arrangements will not work for us. We want to take our midday and evening meals together, as a group, and not with outsiders---not being subjected to their menus.

The hotel and guest home open to us offer just bed and breakfast. An ideal arrangement for us.

To make the Feast of Tabernacles more enjoyable for all of us this year, we plan to engage a catering group to prepare and serve our midday and evening meals on each of the eight days during the festival. This is the only arrangement that will work. BUT, we need your full cooperation! Unless there are unusual circumstances, you should plan to take your meals with the entire group in this manner. The menu outlined for our brethren in the United States during the Feast of Tabernacles will be followed by the catering group in Blackheath. It is a most balanced and health-giving menu and should be very enjoyable when prepared by this professional catering group. And in a group arrangement like this, you will be getting food as good or better than could be acquired in the better restaurants and at a cost far below what you would pay for a comparable meal elsewhere.

The Parklands Private Hotel in Blackheath---within easy walking distance of the auditorium---has made available for the entire eight-day period 45 rooms in which approximately 90 people can be accommodated. The hotel will accommodate 175 people but due to the Six-Hour Holiday, they had already reserved space for 86 people on September 30, October 1 & 2. Consequently, we would not be able to utilize the entire space for all eight days. However, for the first five days of the Feast of Tabernacles, the entire space can be utilized. But this would mean 86 of you brethren would have to be moved to other establishments for the last three days. This procedure can be followed if we see it is necessary.

Most of you should plan to stay in the Parklands Private Hotel. This is because most establishments are fully booked over the holiday weekend or, else, will accommodate you only on full tariff.

If you will carefully consider, most of you will find that you will spend even LESS money this year at Blackheath than you would have by coming to Sydney. The daily traveling expense will be eliminated by those who stay so close to the auditorium and the accommodations are more reasonable than you would experience in Sydney due to the group rate which we have been offered at the Parklands Private Hotel.

The daily tariff at the Parkland Hotel is: 27/- for adults; 20/- for children six through ten; 18/- for those under six and no charge for babies under one year---milk and food, however, will be supplied them from the kitchen free of charge.

Should more than ninety of you wish to stay at the Parklands Private Hotel, I have made arrangements with a guest home to accommodate thirty of you over the last three days. It is the Kubba Roonga Guest Home and the tariff, including breakfast, for the three days will be: £4:4:0 per adult and half rate for any children who stay in a room occupied by at least two adults. This guest home is just one block from the Parklands Hotel, making it possible to move very easily on Friday afternoon during the festival.

Also, for those of you who wish to stay in nicer and more expensive accommodations---provided your second tithe is sufficient---I have made tentative bookings for several rooms in two very modern motels in the Katoomba area. However, at least two adults should plan to stay in each of these rooms---the single rate is probably more than most of you would want to pay---and most of the rooms will accommodate one or two children. You should have your own transportation to stay in either of these motels, to travel the fifteen miles every day. The Sky Rider Motel in Katoomba has available rooms at 39/6 for adults and for children up to ten, £1:0:0 per night---the tariff includes breakfast. The Old Colony Motel in Katoomba also has available several rooms at 37/6 for adults and 18/9 for children up to ten. Children over ten will, of course, be charged full tariff.

Those of you who feel you simply cannot afford to stay in any of the places

outlined above may wish to camp in one of the camping areas, living in either a tent or caravan. You will, of course, have to provide your own tent or caravan as I don't believe they can be rented at any of the camping areas.

In view of the fact that accommodations are going to be limited, we must act quickly to insure we have adequate places in which to stay because God has commanded us to be there---and REJOICE!

At the bottom of this letter you will find a coupon for you to make your preliminary reservations for any of the facilities outlined above. I am going to ask all of you who can to make reservations and rush, by return mail, this coupon or questionnaire so that we may confirm your space in any of these facilities. It is going to be a job to place everyone in the proper facilities and is going to take a lot of hard work and planning. Therefore, we must get started early to complete this operation in time. Also, a very important matter to consider is that all reservations will be on a first come first serve basis. Remember, there is going to be a scarcity of accommodations in the area due to the Six-Hour Holiday, falling at the latter part of the festival period!

Since we must send deposits to the Blackheath area and to the motels and hotels in the area, we are going to ask ALL OF YOU to send in a confirming deposit with your request for reservations. In order to cover all of the preliminary costs we will have in setting up the reservations, you should include a deposit of at least £5:0:0 with your request for reservation. Again I would like to emphasize that you should RUSH your request by return mail in order to guarantee space.

After we have recorded your reservation and placed you in suitable facilities, we will write you by return mail to give you an official confirmation of your space and to advise you of the balance of payment for your accommodations. The full payment for all accommodations must be in by September 15th. God has provided the way for us to have these funds available through second tithes. All of you who have been faithfully saving your second tithe should be able to take these funds from the tithes that have been set aside.

Be sure to use the enclosed envelope that has been specifically designated for Feast of Tabernacles registration. This is important in order for accurate and prompt processing of your request!

Brethren in God's Church, as Christ's minister I urge you to act promptly on this important matter and completely fill out the coupon below---making tentative reservations and enclosing a £5:0:0 deposit with your request. These reservations can be changed if need so requires, but we need your reservation early to properly plan the Feast in this new location. And we need your deposit---out of second tithe you should have saved---because the Church must put up deposit to secure these accommodations by August 1. This must come out of second tithe and not injure God's work at this critical time.

So be prompt---and prepare to REJOICE at the Feast of Tabernacles this year! Mr. Hammer will be there from Melbourne in addition to Mr. Simpkins, Mr. Hughes and myself. We will all certainly be looking forward to seeing you at Blackheath!

Sincerely, in Jesus' name,

Gerald D. Waterhouse

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