

RADIO CHURCH OF GOD

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Dear Brethren:

GREETINGS, again, in the name of Jesus Christ! I have to write you, immediately, this letter about the approaching Feast of Tabernacles. This is vitaly important -- be sure you read carefully every word.

Here is GOOD NEWS! Most of you already have heard it -- we are going to be privileged to hold the great Festival this year in BLACKHEATH, New South Wales.

God has made it evident that He wants us to meet at Blackheath this year instead of in Sydney. Frankly, I was wondering last year if we could observe the Feast of Tabernacles in our present auditorium again this year. We had just simply OUTGROWN our present facilities the very first year! We were forced to look for a more suitable place for the Feast this year. This presented a challenge! I had checked into scores of Town Halls, auditoriums and catering facilities and finally located the fine auditorium in which we now meet. BUT I had seen nothing more suitable for the Feast of Tabernacles. It soon became clear that the Festival would have to be held outside of Sydney -- away from the confusion and complexities of present-day society. Was there such a place -- replete with auditorium, accommodations, beautiful surroundings, catering service and YET still in a central location? I was confident that God had such a place for us -- where He would place His name for the Feast of Tabernacles -- it was just up to us to find it.

I checked from Katoomba as far south as Bundanoon, at the edge of the Southern Alps. Nothing appeared exceptionally promising, although Katoomba did favorably impress us. Further investigation, however, proved that there was no adequate auditorium in the Katoomba area. It looked rather discouraging -- was God showing us we would have to make our auditorium in Sydney work? Then suddenly, through a series of fast-moving events, we were led to the Community Center in Blackheath! In the Community Center was an almost unbelievable auditorium -- a fantastic hall, yet in such a small and remote town. It appeared God had led us to just the right location -- not only was there a very suitable auditorium OPEN for our bookings on the very days we needed but ALSO in beautiful countryside, with parks and scenic advantages all around! All well and good -- but what about ACCOMMODATIONS! They were required BEFORE we could be sure God had led us to the PLACE He had chosen.

When checking into accommodations, we experienced some very disappointing moments! The hotels, guest homes and tourist resorts we investigated were either fully booked or else would offer only full board, nothing was available to accommodate us which offered just bed and breakfast. And in that the last three days of the Feast of Tabernacles coincides with the six-hour weekend, the proprietors of the establishments contacted weren't very concerned about trying to help us. Suddenly, however, at the last minute, God led us in a very eventful manner to a private hotel in Blackheath which could accommodate us with only bed and breakfast. The manager had been away, consequently he had not been approached by tourists who wanted accommodations for the six-hour weekend. Neither did he have to charge full board in that a private hotel is not required under license to do so. It seemed very miraculous! Following this, even less expensive accommodations were opened to us -- in a very providential manner. All of these events convinced us beyond any doubt that it was God's will for us to hold the Feast of Tabernacles in Blackheath this year. A feeling of joy and satisfaction was experienced by all of us. It was wonderful to see how our Heavenly Father was working things out for His people in Australia!

Now that God has done so much to insure we can observe His Festival in surroundings which will greatly add to our joy, happiness and GROWTH, let US not fail God by neglecting to take advantage of what HE HAS OPENED TO US!

Mr. Wayne Cole (who is scheduled to be here by the Feast), Mr. Hammer and I, assisted by Mr. Simpkins, Mr. Hughes and others, will certainly be looking forward to the privilege we will have of meeting with and serving you during the Festival.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

The Feast of Tabernacles begins Sunday evening, at sunset, September 24. (Don't forget to observe the Feast of Trumpets, September 11, and the Day of Atonement, September 20, in your home IF you cannot be in either Sydney or Melbourne to observe these annual SABBATHS in congregation -- write immediately for Mr. Armstrong's booklet on "Pagan Holidays -- God's Holydays -- Which?" and Mr. Hoeh's article on "How to Observe God's Festivals" as well as a copy of God's Sacred Calendar in case you don't already have them). ALL of you should plan to be in Blackheath by not later than 5 p.m. on Sunday, September 24.

Services for the Festival will begin in the auditorium of the Blackheath Community Center, promptly at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday evening. This FIRST meeting is vitally important -- and is held on the beginning of the annual Sabbath. Everyone of God's people should BE there! This is not merely a "preliminary" service of little value, or for announcements -- but a regular preaching service that will be setting forth VITAL INFORMATION "setting the stage" for all that will follow. Be sure to plan ahead, and to be all settled in your place before the beginning of this HOLY DAY!

Dinner will be served in the dining hall -- in the back part of the auditorium -- from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Sunday evening preceding the services.

Morning services will begin the following day promptly at 10:00 a.m. in the auditorium. Remember, on this first Holy Day God commands us to BRING AN OFFERING! He has told us not to "come empty" but for each to give as he has been blessed, and made able! (Deut. 16:16,17). So be sure to plan ahead for these offerings which God commands, and remember that God "LOVETH a cheerful giver!"

RESERVATIONS:

All reservations for the Festival should have already been made. However, if some of you have NOT as yet received confirmation of reservations, you should immediately send your £5:0:0 deposit, to be sure of being properly registered for suitable accommodations.

TRANSPORTATION:

Those of you who will not be traveling to Blackheath by automobile, will probably be coming to Sydney first -- then to Blackheath. For your information, there are electric trains to Blackheath, making the trip in two hours and ten minutes. On Sunday, they leave Central Station at 8:20 a.m., 8:54 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 6:23 p.m. No bookings or reservations can be made on Sunday, you will just have to arrange to be at one of the stations and trust you can get on the train. The trains can be boarded at Central, Strathfield and Parramatta. The fare (second class) for an adult is 17/6 single and £1:6:3 return. Children are charged half-fare. The Blackheath Station is just across the Great Western Highway from the Community Center in which we will hold meetings. A staff of men will be at the Blackheath station all day Sunday, September 24, to assist you upon arrival.

Those of you who must travel to Sydney by public transport, may find it is more economical to travel by bus rather than by train, especially if there are little children involved. I have been informed that Red Lines from Brisbane to Sydney make no charge for children under four years of age, whereas the train does. You might check all modes of travel to see which one would be most suitable in your case.

Some of you may find it possible to attend weekly Sabbath services IN SYDNEY on Saturday, September 23. Others may find it NECESSARY to come early in order to reach Blackheath on time and would, therefore, be here for Sabbath services. Which ever the case, if you plan to be here for Sabbath services on September 23 and would like to be assured of accommodations with some of the brethren, be sure and write us, letting us know of your plans. We will arrange for you to stay with brethren who would like to serve in this manner, and notify you by return mail.

The address of the hall in which we hold weekly Sabbath services is: 118 Alfred Street (the street which leads up to the entrance of Luna Park), MILSON'S POINT -- the first train stop north of the famous Sydney Harbor Bridge. This hall is located in the Australian Institute of Builders building. Services are on Saturday afternoon, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

If you are going to be driving an automobile from Sydney to Blackheath on Sunday, September 24, and feel you will have extra space for other passengers, I would appreciate your informing us of this by return mail. You should set forth the number you can take with you, from what location in Sydney you expect to leave and at what approximate time. Many of our brethren will have to depend on public transport if a ride is not secured for them in this manner.

MEALS:

As most of you know, we are arranging to have our midday and evening meals served in the auditorium. A very reputable and efficient caterer has been engaged for this service. In order for us to insure success for this portion of the Festival, it is imperative that each of you TAKES MEALS WITH THE GROUP at the set times of 12 noon and 6 p.m.

Final arrangements have already been made with a very qualified caterer on this. Breakfast will be taken where you stay or if not served by the management, arranged for by yourself. However, the midday and evening meals will be served in the auditorium each day. All of you should plan to take your meals in such a manner -- this is one of the special privileges God offers us during the Feast of Tabernacles. You will not be able to find the beauty, the really excellent food, the fine fellowship and the convenience anywhere else in the Blackheath area. The meals have been thoroughly planned -- for nutritional value, palatability and real enjoyment. By having our meals prepared on a group scale, we are going to get them much cheaper than a comparable meal could be acquired outside. And, God does want us to enjoy good physical food as well as the rich spiritual food made available through sermons and Bible studies.

The cost per meal will be 8/6 -- with half tariff (4/3) for children 4 to 10 years and no charge for those under 4.

Considering that you will not be paying transportation costs each day as previously experienced in Sydney nor buying your own food for the Festival, this is going to cost many of us less than what was experienced in Sydney last year.

Those of you who have been faithful in saving your second tithe, as God has commanded, and who experience excessive transportation costs in getting to Blackheath, will certainly be helped by brethren who are in a position to help. Let me caution you, however, that God does expect you to do all you can. Prove yourself to God and He will certainly see that your needs are supplied!

Finally, brethren -- BE SURE TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND! It would be a terrible shame to miss the wonderful, jam-packed days of spiritual good, happy fellowship and real JOY together with your brothers and sisters in Christ!

The Feast of Tabernacles is certainly one of the most important phases of your Christian life -- vital to your own spiritual growth! Don't miss the inspired sermons, the Bible studies, the chance for personal counseling with God's ministers, and all the wonderful recreational facilities in the beautiful place God has opened to us.

Also, remember to be very careful. WATCH your driving -- be alert for some who may be drunk or careless. Remember, none of us are leading "charmed" lives. Please let's not have any accidents this year with some of God's people perhaps dead or injured -- just from human carelessness.

We are looking forward to the greatest Feast of Tabernacles possible, and hope to see you there, rejoicing with all of us! May God bless and keep you all safe until we meet together in Blackheath!

Sincerely, in Jesus' name,

Gerald D. Waterhouse

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