

December 2016

Dear Brethren:

Greetings from Mindanao, Philippines. I thank God for this privilege given to me to write this *Monthly Letter*.

We just finished celebrating the seven annual Feasts of the Lord: The Passover, Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Trumpets, Atonement, Tabernacles, and the Last Great Day. These are the Feasts that are appointed or set by God.

These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons (Leviticus 23:4, *English Standard Version Anglicised* throughout).

Sacrifice is the major feature of the Feasts. Today many Christians insist that God is no longer holding us to keeping His seventh-day Sabbath and the biblical Feasts. That is because they do not realize that He set specific times for everything, including the fact that we are to honor Him through these various Feasts. The seventh-day Sabbath and the Feasts are our regular appointments with God.

This month the whole world celebrates Christmas, claiming that this day was the birth of Jesus Christ. We, the called firstfruits, know that this is not true. However, the firstfruits of God's plan, those who are called now, find themselves in a vastly different situation than those who will follow in the later spiritual harvest period.

Jesus said that those who are His followers in this age are not to be "of the world, just as I am not of the world" (John 17:16). They are called out of the world and are expected to develop the character of Christ, while the rest of mankind is deceived (Revelation 12:9) and following values abhorrent to Christ (John 2:15–17).

We, the Church of God, The Eternal Christians, adhere to our beliefs that make our fellowship distinctive from mainstream Christianity.

Through the Holy Spirit, which God gives to those who are part of His Church, members are empowered to overcome the world. God has given us everything including our lives, our family and everything we call our own. If anyone gives us so much, it is only natural that we should be grateful. Serving God is one way to express that gratitude, and in

return we gain much more, including spiritual positivity, peace of mind and growth spiritually as well.

Picturing the plan of God: The most important step in God's plan for the salvation of mankind is revealed in observing His Holy Days. Naturally, those who are of the firstfruits will be observing the very day that pictures the calling and harvest of the firstfruits of God's plan, the Day of Pentecost. They will gratefully observe the very day that celebrates another milestone in God's great plan, the founding of the Church through the granting of God's Holy Spirit.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile (Jeremiah 29:11–14).

We now live in the age of the firstfruits, the time during which God is preparing a special, chosen people to reign with Christ in His Kingdom (1 Peter 2:9).

God is eternal, and so is His plan. The plan was established in eternity past, long before God created the heavens and the earth. It extends to eternity future when God's Kingdom will be established on the earth, and men will enjoy the eternal blessings of being in His presence.

***Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world . . . (Matthew 25:34).***

Your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eduardo Y. Cambil', written in a cursive style.

Eduardo Y. Cambil