

# Church of God (Philippines)

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Minister / Pastor

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Dear Beloved Brethren,

By the grace of our Heavenly Father and His Son, we just recently celebrated our Second Church Anniversary as a “Little Flock” (**Luke 12:32**), last April 20, (Friday evening, which also served as our special Sabbath dinner). Most of you will recall that Abba YHWH and Yahshua led us to start our First Sabbath Service (under Church of God–Philippines) on the First Day of the Sacred Year on April 9, 2016.

## My New Calling

When I resigned from the big corporate organization in early 2016; apart from the spiritually toxic environment which developed earlier then, it was also my personal desire to really pursue the TRUTH wherever it leads. I did not care much about the consequences of losing my salary, lifetime pension, and other material benefits. Anyway, my needs are simple—just enough to survive and have the funds to serve God’s flock. I have always committed myself to God and do the work He might give me to do.

## Your New Calling

Seeing God’s leading, members of my family followed me. Regarding the rest of you (church members); you would recall that I **never** asked any of you to join me; and I even told many; I have almost nothing to give—financially speaking. And if you are looking for material benefits and advantages, better stay in the big corporate organization. All I did then was give you a copy of my Resignation Letter, plus my Letter of Appeal; so that at least, you will also understand why I was then resigning. But thankfully, **God led each one of you** now with the Church of God-Philippines to decide to be part of a **little flock** whose main goal is to seek the deeper truths of God and to live by it. That in essence is the right Philadelphian attitude, which God seeks among believers in these end times. Thankfully, **each of you have been called by God.**

## Some First Anniversary Year Accomplishments:

Among our first agenda two years ago was to establish our manpower organization; then decide on our Church Name by avoiding *self-made adjectives*, but simply name ourselves based on our *location* like how God called the Seven Churches in the Book of Revelation (chapters 2 &3). After that, we created our Website (**cogphilippines.org**) which also defined who and what we are; what is our mission; how we operate; what are our Fundamental Beliefs; and how we can be contacted. These facts are also stated in the “About Us” page in our website. (If any have not done so yet, we invite you to please take a look at our website.) We also established our financial system of banking and accounting of funds.

## Festival Statistics and Prospects

Please allow me to interject here that during our first year, the FOT attendance at Eden Nature Park in 2016 was about 120; wherein we were graciously assisted by God through a small group of independent Churches of God in the U.S. Compared with our FOT attendance for the next year (2017), at that same nice venue, God graciously gave us a good percentage of growth in that our attendance rose to about 150.

And we still were graciously supported by the same loving brethren from the U.S. For the coming FOT this third year, let us pray hard and trust by faith that God will continue to supply our needs as well.

### **Restoring the Knowledge of God's True Names**

From the beginning of our formation and extending into last year's 2017 FOT, we occasionally studied into restoring the lost knowledge of God's true Names; which was corrupted and substituted with just man-made or pagan names. Let us remember that one of the clear and unique distinctions of the *true* Philadelphian spirit and attitude is **not denying** the Father's and Son's Names (**Rev. 3:8**).

About eight months after we started; by January 1, 2017, we began publishing eye-opening articles under our **BiblicalTruths.com** website. At present, we have been blessed to have already published 50 articles; mostly dealing on those mis-understood or corrupted biblical topics prevalent in today's world of Satan.

### **Some Second Anniversary Year Accomplishments:**

By December of 2017, we were led to begin studying deeply the Hebrew Calendar, such that by early January 2018, we started publishing articles about various Calendars as background information. We started with the pagan history of the Roman Calendar; followed by looking into two of the most famous Gentile Calendars (the Mayan and Chinese Calendars as a case in point), because there are about 80 known Gentile or pagan calendars). Then we started with two articles on the problems and corruptions in the present Hebrew Calendar. And just last Saturday, we published a very significant article. God graciously led us into a *pioneering discovery* concerning the true start of each 19-Year Time Cycle as revealed and confirmed by the science of Astronomy thru NASA's data. This was published under the title: "Science Proves When Each 19-Year Time Cycle Really Begins." Thus far, there has *never* been any article published regarding this latest *scientific discovery* on the true start of the 19-Year Time Cycle.

Because of our corrected knowledge (rather than just blindly following old errors and traditions), we properly added a 13<sup>th</sup> month to the present Sacred Calendar Year reckoning starting with the New Moon *after* the Spring Equinox last year (2017) to the New Moon *after* the Spring Equinox of this year (2018). Our reckoning is also supported by NASA moon cycle data. Not only that, but the weather patterns in the temperate regions of the earth confirmed we are right. Also, the weather reports of Meteorologists (weather scientists) supports what we are saying. Likewise, the actual agricultural situation in those said regions of the earth confirms that the pronouncement of March 17 as the start of Spring time was wrong. Since Nature and the Heavens cannot make such mistake, the only conclusion is that it is man's faulty and false reckoning of the Hebrew Calendar that is in error. However, God has mercifully spared us from, and graciously enlightened us not to blindly follow the Calendar error of the majority for this year, 2018.

We are therefore proved to be correct in saying that the *true start* of the Sacred Calendar Year for 2018 should be the day after the New Moon conjunction occurring after the Spring Equinox which brings us to **April 17, 2018**. Thus, we should not be worried that our Holy Days for this year comes a month later compared to the rest of the Churches of God who are simply following the corrupted Hebrew Calendar.

### **Spring Holy Day Preparation and Practice**

Counting 14 days from April 17 brings us to April 30. But since **Passover** is observed on the evening before such date, we commemorate it *after sunset* on **Sunday, April 29**. As I began to write earlier, we are just a week before we observe the commanded Passover ceremony. Let us therefore do all we can to prepare physically and spiritually. Following the Passover will be the **Night to be Much Observed** (actually it is the eve of the First Day of Unleavened Bread), which will be celebrated after sunset on **Monday, April 30**. The basis for our celebrating this event is commanded "forever" in **Exo.12:14**.

The **Days of Unleavened Bread** will be observed from **May 1 to 7**. The **First Day will be on a Tuesday (May 1)**, while the **Last day will be on a Monday (May 7)**. On this regard, over a month ago, I have already prepared and emailed the Spring Festival Excuse Letter for those who might need it. It is good that this year, it will not affect our students and teachers because it is already vacation time. But for others who might need it, the form should be available for downloading (and printing) from our Church website.

For our scattered brethren who may have to keep the Passover on their own, and have access to Internet, please download the “**Passover in Your Own Home**” Guide. For those who have no Internet access, we’ll send these documents by LBC, Also, most have already a file copy of this from previous years.

Prior to the Passover ceremony, it is our custom and advice for all participants to devote a time for **prayer and fasting**, plus **spiritual self-examination**, even as the apostle Paul instructed us (**1Cor.11:27-31**).

Regarding the **Days of Unleavened Bread**; in obedience to God’s command, we *both* physically de-leaven our home environments (**Exo. 12:15-17**), and also spiritually our lives (**1Cor. 5:6-8**). Since God is not a God of all “don’ts,” we are also commanded to *eat unleavened bread for seven days* (**Exo.12:15a**).

As an advance notice, the date for **Pentecost** this year will be on **Sunday, June 24, 2018**. This third Holy Day season of the year has lots of spiritual significance. Among them are:

- The Israelites believe the Ten Commandments was thundered from Mt. Sinai on this date.
- It symbolizes our calling as part of the “First-fruits” to God.
- It symbolizes the calling of the “First Harvest” to salvation.
- It symbolizes the establishment of the New Testament Church.
- It symbolizes the giving of the Holy Spirit upon called-out believers.

#### **ADVANCE NOTICE FOR THE FALL FESTIVAL DATES FOR 2018:**

(This will help in planning your travels in advance; and for those needing to take the plane, watching out for Promo Fares well in advance. This notice also allows you to plan your other schedules in advance.)

<b>Feast of Trumpets</b>	<b>October 11, 2018</b>
<b>Day of Atonement</b>	<b>October 20, 2018</b>
<b>Feast of Tabernacles</b>	<b>October 25-31, 2018</b>
<b>Last Great Day</b>	<b>November 1, 2018</b>

#### **CONCLUSION**

Brethren, I took some time to review with you some of the things God has done for us during the past couple of years. The reason is that I want us all to be properly thankful and give due credit to the Father and the Son Who faithfully and lovingly blessed us beyond our expectations and made all that happened possible. I would be the first to confess that none of those things has been done by our own efforts alone.

Please continue to pray, that God will continue to lead and bless us, especially in doing our part in the end-time Work, and preparing ourselves for the Kingdom. I hope to update you more as needed.

In Abba YHWH and Yahshua’s Names,

  
Edmond D. Macaraeg