

January 2025

Dear Brethren:

My family and I greet you with the expression of all our love. We think of all those who were called by God to receive and to practice an unalterable Way of Life faithfully. That Way of Life was designed by God, and it was lived perfectly in the flesh by His Son, Jesus Christ. He remained sinless while submitting to the most painful and agonizing trial. He let Himself be nailed to a stake. He gave His life for us to be redeemed and to become potential heirs of salvation.

You—my brothers and my sisters—were chosen for the purpose of living the principles of the future government of God.

When Jesus Christ was on this earth, He knew that He could not take the liberty of tampering with the Words of His Father. He lived them to the full, as an example to those who would be called. During the most intense agony that a human being can experience, Jesus Christ did not give in to the temptation to take things into His own hands. One of the malefactors was pushing Him to do just that. "If thou be Christ, save thyself and us" (Luke 23:39).

For what purpose did God choose us and how did He call us?

My wife and I heard the radio broadcast, *Le Monde A Venir* (The World Tomorrow), for the first time in October 1964. We read the monthly magazine, *La Pure Vérité* (The Plain Truth), and booklets that covered many aspects of the Truth of God. We studied a most enlightening correspondence Bible course. Such knowledge left no doubt that our lives could be quite different from the lives that we had experienced up until then. We were determined to taste the new Way of Life in applying the instructions that we had received. But, we knew that we could not be successful on our own. So, in March 1965, we asked for baptism. We were baptized in the rather chilly waters of a lake that is close to our home. It was a most serious commitment. We gave affirmative answers to the questions asked by the minister: Have you repented of your sins? Do you accept Christ as your personal Savior, Lord and Master, the future King of kings? Our "yes" went up to the ears of God, the Father, and of His Son, Jesus Christ. It was not addressed merely to a man. We were making a commitment in order to receive God's Holy Spirit—the needed help to do the will of God in our lives and to repent of our failures until the end of our days.

It was also in March 1965 that services for Holy Day and Sabbath observance began in Switzerland. They took place in the church office that was in Geneva. The congregation numbered eight people, including the minister and his wife. We met in the church office every week while we were waiting for more people to come to the knowledge of God's Truth, and for larger premises to be rented in which to meet. The 1965 Feast of Tabernacles was the first one for my wife and me. We traveled to England, where about 2,000 people attended the Feast services under a large tent.

We were walking confidently, believing that Jesus Christ was the Head of the Church (as He still is) and that His servants were faithful men. But, in 1974, things began to take a turn for the worse. And the upheaval only increased. We were asked to destroy the old *Plain Truth* magazines, booklets, and the Bible course, and to embrace new doctrines. That was defeating all the experiences that we had gathered in the course of the past eleven years. Furthermore, at baptism, we had promised our faithful and honest obedience to God's Way of Life.

In 1973, I had been put in charge of a congregation that met every Sabbath in Lausanne, Switzerland. In the spring of 1976, I was forced to attend a ministerial conference in Pasadena, California. It was an attempt to make me change my mind. When the new doctrinal manual was held out to me, I refused to dirty my hands with it. That resulted in our separation from the church and the annulment of services in Lausanne. However, that annulment reflected only the will of men. After having been informed of the reason for the closing of that local church, several members wanted me to continue to hold services in Lausanne. And we did for forty-four years.

The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever (Isaiah 40:7-8).

I received a lot of support from the only evangelist in the United States who had remained faithful to the Truth, and also had been disfellowshipped. I contacted him and he came to visit the brethren in Switzerland right after the 1976 Feast of Tabernacles. He repeated his visits yearly in the Pentecost season. Our current minister has perpetuated that practice to this day.

God gave us the opportunity to be faithful to Him. He says:

These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates: And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour; and love no

false oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith the LORD (Zechariah 8:16–17).

What was the result of that new start of the church with its new doctrines? A vast number of splinter groups and disagreements. Whereas God wants His called to love the Truth and peace that lead to unity.

Although God gives everyone the freedom of choice, He never ceases to urge us to be faithful and obedient to His commandments. When He called us, He said: "See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil" (Deuteronomy 30:15). "Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength" (Isaiah 26:4). We have to choose every day until the end of our physical lives. God adds:

In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it (Deuteronomy 30:16).

For us, our inheritance will be the Kingdom of God, as confirmed by Jesus Christ: "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matthew 25:34). A warning is addressed to us:

But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them: I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it. (Deuteronomy 30:17–18).

Once God has given us His Way of Life, we must choose. To what do we want to submit? To the life of Jesus Christ who is living in us or to our natural minds? God's exhortation is: "[C]hoose life, that . . . thou . . . may live" (Deuteronomy 30:19).

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it (Matthew 7:13–14).

We cannot choose before we are taught God's commandments. But committing to a choice is something that man does not like to do. That is the reason why he would rather trust a human being than trust God. Man likes another human being to choose in his stead—to become responsible in his place.

The Apostle Paul, who went through many experiences, asked the question: "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31). We must not hinder the work that God is accomplishing in our lives. He creates or allows all kinds of circumstances in our lives. Let us remember that God chose us and called us to know the Way that leads to life. It is not without trials that such monumental work can be accomplished in lives as short as ours. The Apostle Paul wrote:

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified (Romans 8:28–30).

A whole process of growth is occurring in our lives. Being human, we fall countless times, but we pick ourselves up because we want our lives to be pleasing to God.

My brothers and sisters, remember that you were called according to the purpose of God. We were redeemed by Jesus Christ. We are a group of people who is able to make the right choice. By our spiritual growth we show our faith in God's Way of Life and in His promises—promises that God fulfills according to His purpose. Our lives are a manifestation of faithfulness and loyalty to the Truth of God. Being called by God according to His purpose entails learning to overcome our natures and to obey God's laws. Rejecting evil and choosing good in our current lives will make us heirs of salvation and rulers with Jesus Christ at His Second Coming.

That is why God says to us: Choose!

Can we walk confidently in the Way of God? Let us echo the words of King David:

Praise ye the LORD. I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation. The works of the LORD are great, sought out of all them that have pleasure therein. His work is honourable and glorious: and his righteousness endureth for ever. He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the LORD is gracious and full of compassion. He hath given meat unto them that fear him: he will ever be mindful of his covenant. He hath shewed his people the power of his works, that he may give them the heritage of the heathen [our future inheritance]. The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness. He

sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever (Psalm 111:1–10).

Every day we can relentlessly and confidently strive to conduct our lives as God requires of us. Whatever happens in the course of our fight—a fight from which God wants us to emerge victorious—let us never forget the words of the Apostle Paul: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Philippians 4:13). How wonderful it is to live with such an orientation. God utters another beautiful promise to all those who are called to practice His Way of Life:

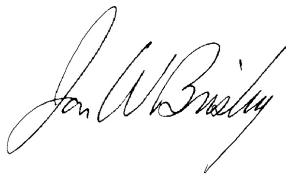
And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you (Isaiah 46:4).

Thank you for your faithfulness. Thank you for your prayers. We, too, remember you all.

To you all, our love and our deep respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jean Aviolat". The script is fluid and cursive.

Jean Aviolat and family

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon W. Brisby". The script is fluid and cursive.

Jon W. Brisby