

Announcement Letter January 2012

Dear Brethren:

Very special greetings to all of you, beloved friends of the faith, in this tenth month of the "old" year. That is not how most of us have been conditioned to think about January, since the world considers this to be the beginning of a brand new year. And even for those of us who have been in God's church for many years now (or perhaps all of our lives), is not it still difficult to think about January without thinking "new year"? Do we not still stop at this time to think about another year passing, and wonder what the next twelve months will bring? Why this reflection in January, when we know—intellectually—that it is not really the new year at all? It just shows how influential Babylonian concepts really are, and how much of them we have necessarily absorbed because of living in this world and being saturated through its bombardment.

But think about it: When Jesus Christ returns to establish His Kingdom on this earth, everything of Egypt and Babylon will be utterly destroyed, including their calendars. There will be no more January. The new year will begin in the spring, and new generations of children who are born in that Millennium will be taught only that the new year begins with springtime. The idea of the new year beginning in mid-winter will likely seem absurd to them. The "natural" time for new year's resolutions will become the spring (northern hemisphere), not the winter. And is not that really the more appropriate time to stop and think about what you have accomplished in the past year, and what you need to do to improve yourself for the next one? The very essence of Passover and Unleavened Bread demands that we stop and reflect upon where we stand spiritually. Preparing for the spring of the year so that we may offer to God an acceptable sacrifice is absolutely essential. Under the rulership of Jesus Christ, the calendar used by all nations worldwide will complement perfectly this inclination to search the self and make new resolutions for improvement.

We also understand that truly effective self-evaluation should be going on year-round. The whole concept of a new year's resolution made with shallow goals—only one time of year and quickly abandoned—is quite useless. That is what most people of the world do at this time of year, in January. But how many of God's people do the very same thing each year leading up to Passover, the true new year? We scramble to assess ourselves and prepare to be in a right frame of mind so that God will accept our Passover sacrifice. But as soon as Unleavened Bread is over (or even sooner), we fall right back into our same old self-defeating habits of sin. Even as the world quickly abandons their resolutions by February, we often abandon our own spiritual resolutions by May.

During the tenth month of this "old year," why not make commitment to prepare for the true new year coming up in April (Nisan) as never before? Let us ask God for the help to work on our bad habits with aggressive and sustained energy. Let us show that we are not just *intellectually* committed to the faith once delivered in some detached way, but truly *zealous* to use the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives to create a legitimate conversion of mind. It is an effort which should be made each and every month, year-round, but is especially appropriate as we now begin to count down to a new Passover season and the beginning of a truly new year just a few weeks ahead.

New Moon

The new moon, Shebat (eleventh month), will begin on the evening of January 24. The new moon day is January 25.

Birth

Mr-s. Kevin Knott would like to announce the birth of their third child and third son. Paul Michael was born Thursday morning, December 8. He weighed nine pounds, one ounce and was twenty-one inches long. Ginger and baby Paul are doing fine.

Trip Schedule

Mr. Brisby:

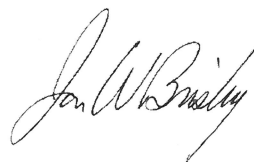
January 21 Port St. Lucie, Florida

January 28 Maryville, Tennessee

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-RC 27-9	12-08-11	12-31-11	Resolve to Live the Faith: #9 What Is Involved in Attitude? #2
WSE-RC 27-10	12-08-11	01-07-12	Resolve to Live the Faith: #10 What Is Involved in Attitude? #3
WSE-RC 27-11	12-29-11	01-14-12	Resolve to Live the Faith: #11 Marks of the Sufferings of Christ #1
WSE-JB 22-139-25-H2	12-29-11	01-21-12	Fund. of Belief #25: Marriage and Divorce: Problems in Marriage #2
WSE-RC 27-12	12-29-11	01-28-12	Resolve to Live the Faith: #12 Marks of the Sufferings of Christ #2
WSE-RC 27-13	01-19-12	02-04-12	Resolve to Live the Faith: #13 Denigration of Self
WSE-JB 22-140-25-H3	01-19-11	02-11-12	Fund. of Belief #25: Marriage and Divorce: Problems in Marriage #3
WSE-RC 27-14	01-19-12	02-18-12	Resolve to Live the Faith: #14 What Happens When People Lose Faith?

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby