

Announcement Letter December 2012

Dear Brethren:

It is an honor to greet the children of God once again this month and to confirm our continuing love and sincere appreciation for your stalwart defense of God's truth in your lives. Even as the temple service of ancient Israel could only be performed, physically, as long as the people supported it through obedience to God's commands concerning tithes and offerings, so this ministry is likewise dependent absolutely upon the support of a faithful remnant to make our work of service possible. It is not just about money. The tithes you voluntarily pay are a reflection of what you care about most. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Luke 12:34). You have each made choice—without coercion of any kind from us—to support this small work, and that is a reflection of your free will in action to express what you love. That love, secondarily, then makes possible the work that we do to support you, to encourage you, to feed you spiritually, and to defend you in times of trouble. According to God's perfect will for the structure of His church, the physical organization depends upon faithful members for it to exist. You are worthy therefore of our appreciation and determined sacrifice to serve you, because you are the called children of the Most High God—the only ones we know of willing at this time to hold fast to the faith once delivered—and it is His pleasure to care for your every need through a ministry that will honestly represent that faithful Savior.

In similar fashion, the nations of this world also govern according to the *character* of the people. Notice I did not say according to "the will" of the people. Many of them *believe* erroneously they are democratically electing their leaders, while even others in totalitarian regimes likewise believe those dictators rule only by their ultimate consent, else are replaced through violent revolution of the masses. In either case, they believe they have *power* to determine who will rule over them. They understand not that it is *God alone* who determines who will rule.

This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and *giveth it to whomsoever he will*, and setteth up over it *the basest of men* (Daniel 4:17) [emphasis mine].

Notice that not only did God confirm that He is the One who actively determines who rules in every human kingdom, but also that in many cases He chooses to give them rulers who are "the basest of men." Why would He do that? Because in most cases He gives the people the government they deserve! When Israel rebelled against God and committed all manner of abominations, God punished them through their human leaders:

And the LORD said unto me, Take unto thee yet the instruments of a foolish shepherd. For, lo, *I will raise up a shepherd* in the land, which shall not visit those that be cut off, neither shall seek the young one, nor heal that that is broken, nor feed that that standeth still: but he shall eat the flesh of the fat, and tear their claws in pieces (Zechariah 11:15–16) [emphasis mine].

This is why it is true that the people indeed *influence directly* the quality of their leaders, but not because of their volition to "choose" who will govern. No, they will never decide who will rule them because that is a power God has reserved to Himself. But they will most definitely influence whom God will choose to rule them by the quality of their *collective character*.

Another way to say this is, *God gives the people the leadership they deserve*. So ironically, the people often indeed "vote in" their leaders, not by means of the ballot box, but by God's judgment of their own behavior in how they live their lives.

We have just completed another election cycle in the United States, and the current President has been reelected. Other elections have happened recently in Europe and in other nations around the world. Did any of you vote? You surely know that we were taught by Mr. Armstrong that the people of God do not vote, because doing so repudiates the very principle outlined above, and would imply we believe we have some volition of our own to decide who rules. Such is a direct affront to the One who sets up those leaders by His own volition. Will you make yourself into God? Then *never* assume you have the power of God to decide who rules.

But there are probably some of you who secretly registered and voted nonetheless. If so, you were duped by the Babylonian propaganda of Satan's world which asserts that *you can make a difference*, and that, in fact, it is your *civic duty* to vote. Either that, or else perhaps you just could not resist the urge to try and influence the outcome, to get a favored politician "in," or to get an odious one "out," like rooting for your favorite sports team. But what is the truth about these outcomes?

For those of you who ever voted, did your choice make your homeland a better place? Truly? Have any of these politicians ever fulfilled their promises? They all—regardless of party affiliation—treat the populace like dumb sheep to be manipulated, pursuing ultimately

their own selfish, greedy agendas. It is exactly the tyranny Christ said existed in the kingdoms of men (Matthew 20:25). Do you disagree with His assessment of all human government?

So now we know who will rule in the Executive and Legislative branches of the United States government for the coming years. Likewise, a new President has been elected in France just recently, as well as representatives in Switzerland and other places where God's people live. Are you sad for the outcomes of these elections, as are many so-called "conservative" citizens who are committed to traditional principles? Only if you are allowing yourself to become part of this world, forgetting that *God* is the One who is giving our nations exactly the leaders that the people deserve to perform His perfect work for His ultimate plan. All of these governments will one day cease to exist when Jesus Christ returns to depose Satan and to rule as King upon this earth. In the meantime, our peoples are becoming more and more Godless, forsaking speedily even the most basic, fundamental principles of morality. We are heading swiftly down the very same path as the ancients in the days of Noah and in Sodom. Likewise, when our sins finally "come to the full," as theirs did, God will intervene mightily and begin that final, terrifying work to humble these filthy children. He loves them, notwithstanding their foul and abominable practices today. And it is His perfect will to teach them the error of their ways by letting them suffer under the curses of their rebellion for now, including through oppression of the worst kinds of leaders.

Do you agree with God and what He is doing to save mankind? Do you want man to learn to hate sin and to embrace the true Creator God? Or will you be seduced by the short-term enticements of this world, seeking to "make it a better place" through your civic activism? If you are truly seeking *first* the Kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33), then you believe that the leaders in office today are there by the will of that purposeful God, and even though they are "the basest of men" as a reflection of the baseness of the people today, it is all for the long-term good. If you understand this and truly believe it, then you will never become depressed by the outcome of any election, or by the overthrow of any government. Even as King Nebuchadnezzar had to learn, the Most High God does indeed rule in the kingdoms of men.

New Moon

The new moon, Tebeth (tenth month), will begin on the evening of Thursday, December 13. The new moon day is Friday, December 14.

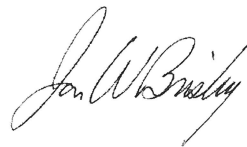
Trip Schedule

December 22..... JWB/DFB Don Carlos/Sulamay, Mindanao, Philippines
December 29.....JWB/DFB Alaminos, Luzon, Philippines
January 26.....JWB Baltimore, Maryland
February 2.....JWB Suna-Migori, Kenya

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-JB 138-7	11-21-12	12-08-12	The Family Handbook #7
CL-2 38	11-21-12	12-15-12	Peace #9
WSP-JB 139-1	11-21-12	12-22-12	The Proper Role of Animals In God's Plan #1
CL-2 39	12-13-12	12-29-12	Peace #10
WSP-JB 139-2	12-13-12	01-05-13	The Proper Role of Animals In God's Plan #2
CL-2 40	12-13-12	01-12-12	Peace #11
WSE-JB 138-8	01-03-12	01-19-13	The Family Handbook #8

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby