

Announcement Letter January 2013

Dear Brethren:

Another pagan new year has now come and gone, and the people of God are greatly relieved to get beyond the heathen winter solstice revelries once again. It is a pleasure to greet in this letter the unusual few who have been called out of all such deception and have embraced the real Truth of that genuine Creator God. We hope and pray as always that you are thriving in all those things that are truly important, and that your faith is waxing stronger day by day.

This letter is actually being composed while on the road from the city of Tarlac to Alaminos, in the Philippine province of Pangasinan. It is a privilege to be able to travel again to visit God's people in the Philippine Islands and to help confirm them in that very same way of life which touched so many around the world in the twentieth century through the ministry of Mr. Herbert Armstrong. Since the very first visit here of Mr. Raymond Cole in 1994 on behalf of this remnant group, the Philippine church has been strong and resilient. I had the honor to accompany Mr. Cole on his visit here in December 1997 (his last), and have been making the trip every year since then.

Likewise, since December 2000, Mr. David Brandenburg has been making the trip with me, so that this is his thirteenth consecutive year to visit those who have become our dear friends in this part of the world.

With that in mind, I am pleased to announce that Mr. David Brandenburg was officially ordained as a minister of Jesus Christ by the laying on of hands during the Sabbath service of December 22, 2012, in Don Carlos, Bukidnon, Philippines. Mr. Mario Roque and Mr. Eduardo Cambil, our two ministers in Mindanao, joined with me to lay hands upon David in the presence of about one hundred brethren who came together for this special Sabbath assembly.

Why did I choose to ordain Mr. Brandenburg at this particular time and in this particular place? First, given the positive feedback received from brethren throughout this past year from all over the world, and after the fasting and prayer which God requires before making such significant administrative choices, I became convinced that this ordination was most assuredly the will of God. Secondly, I did not want to wait until next year's Feast of Tabernacles before confirming this appointment and being able to use Mr. Brandenburg fully to supplement the service of this ministry to our scattered brethren. At the same time, I had hoped to be able to conduct this ordination with a sizeable congregation for witness. Outside

of our Feast assemblies in the USA, there is no larger group that assembles during the year in one place than during my annual visit to Mindanao, Philippines. And since this December trip is one of the few times during the year when David and I are together, it seemed an ideal time to complete this goal. I also felt that there would be no better place to perform this ordination than among the Philippine brethren, who have come to love and appreciate David's dedicated sacrifice to travel voluntarily with me to visit them all these years. It is that spirit of self-sacrifice and dedication which is a key part of his qualification and selection to this office, and his service to the Philippine brethren has been a hallmark of that history. Lastly, I felt that it would be a special honor for our beloved friends and brethren in the Philippines who make up a significant portion of our total membership worldwide.

Even though most of you have never had the chance to meet each other across the oceans, those of us who have been so privileged can attest to the legitimacy of God's work with a remnant body in all of these diverse areas around the globe. Yes, that work began in North America. But for reason, God has chosen to preserve faithful brethren in many areas around the world, so that the total membership of our fellowship abroad outnumbers the total of all brethren in North America. It is important therefore that our focus and planning takes this fact into consideration. The ordination of David Brandenburg is a strategic part of that plan to make provision to serve the entirety of our faithful brethren around the world.

We never know what tomorrow will bring, because God chooses not to show us those specifics. Yet, we are confident that He will provide all that we need to fulfill His will, if we are responsive to His instructions and inspiration. No matter how much advanced planning is involved on our parts, we truly see only that which is right before us, and must act in faith to trust God for all that is ahead. But I am confident that David Brandenburg is part of that plan for the service and defense of this remnant body. And I am thrilled to present him to you now as another minister whom you can seek out for your spiritual support. He now has the full authority to teach, counsel, anoint for healing, to baptize, and to perform any other administrative function in support of the Pastor and Director.

I hope that you will join with me in appreciation and celebration of this appointment, and most of all I hope that you will avail yourselves of all that David Brandenburg has to offer you. He has my full support and confidence, and I believe that he has already earned that confidence among most of you as well.

New Moon

The new moon, Shebat (eleventh month), will begin on the evening of Friday, January 11. The new moon day is Sabbath, January 12.

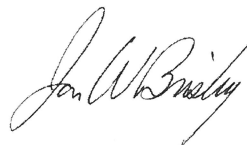
Trip Schedule

January 26.....JWB Baltimore, Maryland
February 2.....JWB Suna-Migori, Kenya
March 2.....JWB Stephenville, Texas

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
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	01-03-13	01-19-13	The Family Handbook #8
WSE-JB 138-9	01-03-13	01-26-13	The Family Handbook #9
CL-2 92	01-03-13	02-02-13	Faith #1
CL-2 93	01-24-13	02-09-13	Faith #2
WSE-JB 141	01-24-13	02-16-13	Pre-Passover Exam: The Seed and Good Ground

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby