

Announcement Letter March 2013

Dear Brethren:

In this new Roman month—the month which contains the beginning of God's new year and His Passover feast—we greet you and express again our sincere love and appreciation for your devotion to God's revealed way of life. Though you are very few and scattered, you are part of a remnant which gives you the opportunity to make an acceptable sacrifice to God by keeping the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread appropriately. In such a very dark world, even a very small light makes an incredible impression. So never doubt the importance of what you have been called to understand, or the value of what you will be accomplishing by obeying God's command to keep this Passover. May we express our most sincere love and regard for you all, with our prayers for a very peaceful and inspiring Holy Day season.

Spiritual Principle—The Second Passover: (Reprinted from the March 2007 *Announcement Letter*.)

Since this is the last mailing you will receive from us before the spring Holy Days, this is the time to remind you about important guidelines for keeping the solemn Passover service.

Remember that God is the One who designates where those solemn assemblies are to be held, and He does so through delegated authority of a faithful ministry. God never permitted individual Israelites to decide where they would convoke to worship.

In this age when we have become a scattered remnant, we do not have local ministers and places for group convocation in all areas accessible to our brethren. Some simply live too far away from the nearest designated place. In those cases, this ministry has approved individuals to conduct a Passover service in their own homes, and when the ministry authorizes that, we are confident God supports it and gives His acceptance. But only those who truly live too far away from a designated place have such approval.

Confusion can easily arise because we send all of you an individual copy of the pre-recorded Passover service and sermon messages for the Holy Days. This might lead some to assume they have the option to stay at home and simply use this recording to conduct their own Passover service, if they so choose. But that is not true. If you are one who lives in an area where a designated place has been assigned for a group, that is the only place authorized for the Passover to be kept in that particular area. If, for instance, you are severely ill or injured, and cannot attend the Passover with the group in your area, you *do not* have authority

to just use the Passover recording and conduct your own service at home. This is not permitted! If you have a legitimate reason for not being able to convoke in the place God has designated, your only option is to wait and partake of the *second Passover* one month later. This is God's command for one not able to participate due to an unforeseen complication (Numbers 9:10–11). Partaking of the Passover was so important to God, He provided this second Passover command to address those situations and provide a means to partake of the body and blood of Christ.

The second Passover is not an option for one who simply failed to plan properly. If a complication was foreseen and could have been dealt with in advance, God expects us to work hard to eliminate that obstacle and be sure—without excuse—to be at the true Passover in the first month. One who is cavalier about it and thinks he can default for convenience to the second Passover will not be accepted by God. The ministry must approve any individual to partake of the second Passover. If the reasons for missing the first-month Passover are not truly legitimate, a second Passover will not be authorized. Please keep these important principles in mind.

This would include an individual who decides he is "not worthy" to take the Passover at the designated time. As we have clarified before, we are all commanded to make ourselves ready through self-examination. It is not necessary to have become perfect—without sin—to partake of Passover, but one must have seriously considered his personal failings in comparison with the perfect standard of Christ, be truly repentant of those sins, and be committed to rooting out that sin which has been discovered. Yes, one who partakes of Passover unworthily will eat and drink damnation to himself (1 Corinthians 11:29). But likewise, one who fails to keep Passover—even out of an apparent sense of humility—has also cut himself off from Christ just as much (John 6:53). Either way, we place ourselves in the way of destruction. God has therefore boxed us in. There is only one way to avoid being rejected and cut off. We *must* examine ourselves honestly and soberly, and then we *must* prepare and *partake* of the Passover. Only one who has done this, and then later runs into an unforeseen event that literally prevents his attendance at the designated Passover service will be permitted to partake of the second Passover.

This means that brethren who live in areas where we do have groups and lead men to organize meetings—including our largest groups in the U.S.; Eugene, OR; Vancouver, WA; Baltimore, MD; Knoxville, TN; Boston, MA/Providence, RI, just to name a few—must either attend at the one designated place, or forego keeping the Passover ordinance in the first month. No home service is permitted in those areas. That includes invalids in the area who cannot attend for whatever reason. There are no "home services" approved in any of those areas.

If you have any questions or concerns about where you are authorized to partake of the Passover, please contact a minister in your local area, or at the headquarters church office. We will be happy to assist you so that you can fulfill God's command with perfect confidence.

New Moon

The new moon, Nisan (first month), will begin on the evening of Monday, March 11. The new moon day is Tuesday, March 12.

Holy Days

Lead men should be making appropriate preparations for these days:

Passover (evening)	Sunday, March 24
Night to Be Much Observed	Monday, March 25
1st Holy Day—Days of Unleavened Bread	Tuesday, March 26
2nd Holy Day—Days of Unleavened Bread	Monday, April 1

Trip Schedule

Mr. Jon Brisby

March 23, 24, 25, 26..... Cape Town, South Africa
March 30, April 1..... Carlisle/Appleyby, England

Mr. Robert Litz

March 23, 24, 25, 26..... Maryville, Tennessee
March 30, April 1 Mansfield, Massachusetts

Mr. David Brandenburg

March 30, April 1..... Stephenville, Texas

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
CL-2 95	02-14-13	03-09-13	Faith #4
CL-2 96	02-14-13	03-16-13	Faith #5
HD Sermons	02-14-13	—	Passover/NTBO/UB
WSE-JB 143	03-07-13	03-23-13	Leadership Selection In God's Church
WSP-JB 49	03-07-13	03-30-13	Wisdom Is Justified of All Her Children
WSE-JB 138-11	03-07-13	04-06-13	The Family Handbook #11
CL-2 97	03-28-13	04-13-13	Faith #6

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby