

Announcement Letter June 2013

Dear Brethren:

It is a pleasure to greet all of you in this new month of June, following our keeping of Pentecost just a few weeks ago. As always, we think of you with sincere respect and fondness, recognizing you as the called of God who are fighting to hold to the faith once delivered.

The spiritual battles continue to be brutal for many of God's people. It is certain that each one of you feels the pressure of this world and of your own minds in opposition to the revealed ways of God. Those pressures seem ceaseless, and it requires concerted and consistent effort to have and to maintain a sound spiritual orientation.

On one hand, the good news is that God continues to send new ones of His sheep to this little flock, and we are thrilled to get to know them and have the privilege to serve them. It is only a handful, but every one of them is priceless. We are also thrilled when ones who have been estranged from us for a time have found the strength to return again. This we have likewise experienced in some few cases.

It is very sad, however, to witness some few of our beloved friends becoming overwhelmed by their trials and becoming destabilized. This, too, has occurred in past months in a very few instances. No matter if it is even just one, we grieve for the loss of ones we care so much about, especially with concern about their spiritual future.

There is a reason we are doing all of the things we are doing. We are all part of this particular remnant group because we believe God's revealed Truth is being preserved here as in no other organized body we know of for now, and that way of life includes commands which are not easy for human beings to perform. Our defense of the original teachings of Mr. Armstrong about marriage, health and healing, tithing, and church government are just a few examples of doctrines which have been liberalized by most other groups to make it "easier" to be in "God's church." Oh, how much easier we could make it on ourselves if we would just amend a few of those "hard-line" doctrines. How many former members of the church might view us more favorably and decide to join us? Would that not be marvelous? Yes indeed, but at what price? Is this just some assembly of human beings playing church, or are we convinced we are part of a life-and-death struggle for spiritual survival?

For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ. But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither

received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ (Galatians 1:10–12).

How we wish we could give certain offended brothers and sisters what they desire in order to make them want to stay with us. But even as we were never the *authors* of those teachings to begin with, neither are we *masters* of that doctrine that we practice today. It was established by the Creator God. That very God is the One who revealed Himself to us through a chosen servant (Herbert Armstrong) and preserved those same divine teachings in the midst of chaos through another faithful pastor (Raymond Cole). We have no power but to love them and to keep them and to show God that we are determined to put Him first above all other considerations. God helping us we will never give in to those deceptive forces which seek to destroy that Truth through compromise and emotional affectation.

We must always keep one hand firmly gripped to the rock (the foundation) of that doctrine, even as we reach out with the other hand to assist those who are being swept away. We desire to help them. Our hand is indeed outstretched. We are reaching as far as we can, but the individual must want to be helped and be willing to reach back toward us and to grasp our fingers. Letting go of that Rock in order to reach out farther is not an option. All that would accomplish is to sweep us both away. Jesus Christ is that Rock. He is the Word, and our collective salvation is dependent upon holding firm to His doctrine, no matter what sacrifice it requires of us.

If you are one who is feeling estranged, drifting away from us, even if still technically "with us," we admonish you to take stock of your peril. We will all be tested, sooner or later, with the threat of being "offended" at the Word, so be ready for that eventuality. How will you know when your test comes? How will you tell the difference between God's inspiration and the deceiver who masquerades as an angel of light? If you think your "feelings" will always be inspired by God, then you are in serious danger of deception. Your feelings are your enemy! They are natural, sensual, and deadly. Only those who recognize the subtlety of their own natural minds will have a fighting chance. Coming to see that in ourselves and to admit our mistakes in judgment hurts our pride terribly. Some are dealing with smarting pride right now, and experiencing the force of that "gravity," or the "pull of the tide," creating a widening gap between us. In the enclosed *Monthly Letter*, you will read about Mr. Armstrong's duel with his own pride, and how he was forced to confront it honestly to save his life, spiritually.

All one has to do is reach out and take our hand. There is no penance (toward man) required and no "I told you so" gauntlets to endure. We just want you to join with us to defend the revealed faith we still love and are struggling to preserve. We are all in this fight together, and it is indeed a fight for eternal life.

May God grant us to stand shoulder to shoulder and to prove that we really have paid attention to the warnings and admonitions of faithful servants, like Raymond Cole, who have taught us how to identify and to defeat the real enemies in our lives. You are all much loved.

New Moon

The new moon, Tammuz (fourth month), will begin on the evening of Sabbath, June 8. The new moon day is Sunday, June 9.

The new moon, Ab (fifth month), will begin on the evening of Sunday, July 7. The new moon day is Monday, July 8.

Birth

Mr-s. Jason Bourget, of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, would like to announce the arrival of their son, Silas Ezekiel, who was born Sunday, May 19. He weighed eight pounds, two ounces, and was twenty inches long. Mother (Allendra), father and Silas' three older siblings are all doing great.

Trip Schedule

Mr. Jon Brisby

July 6 Grand Rapids, Michigan
July 13 Camp Tejas/Maryville, Tennessee


Mr. David Brandenburg

July 13, 20 Camp Tejas/Maryville, Tennessee

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
CL-2 101	05-09-13	05-25-13	Faith #10
WSE-JB 138-14	05-09-13	06-01-13	The Family Handbook #14
CL-2 102	05-09-13	06-08-13	Faith #11
WSE-JB 138-15	05-30-13	06-15-13	The Family Handbook #15
CL-2 103	05-30-13	06-22-13	Faith #12
CL-2 104	05-30-13	06-29-13	Faith #13
WSE-JB 138-16	06-20-13	07-06-13	The Family Handbook #16
CL-2 105	06-20-13	07-13-13	Faith #14

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby