

Announcement Letter May 2014

Dear Brethren:

Special greetings to you all, dear friends of the common faith, with our affirmation of love and sincere appreciation for your continuing devotion to the faith once delivered.

We pray that you experienced a very joyful Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread. Whether you were blessed with the opportunity to gather with others of like mind for those commanded occasions, or else perhaps were forced to be alone, your example to make the things of God your priority will always be a marvelous example and witness for the Truth.

We are now in the midst of the count toward Pentecost. Unlike some who seek to make the literal "counting" holy, we understand that the count is merely a *tool* which allows us to determine the Holy *Day* which God has set apart and ordained. When we follow His instructions—provided through the divine inspiration of a chosen servant—then the use of those tools leads us to the correct conclusion, and we can be certain that we will be assembling on the correct day to appear before Him as required. Those who try to make the *counting itself* some "holy ritual" (as do many Jews) miss the entire point.

This month of May also happens to be the fortieth anniversary of that infamous change of the marriage doctrine by the Worldwide Church of God. It was May 6, 1974—at the dedication ceremony of the new Ambassador Auditorium—when the change was announced to allow divorced members to remarry with church approval, even if they had a previous mate still living. It was forty years ago to the month when that first *major* doctrine was corrupted by the ministry, fulfilling God's very prophecies of apostasy in the last days.

In the past we have stated that the divorce and remarriage change was the first doctrine *effectively* corrupted by our parent church. How can that be, however, when the change in Pentecost was announced *three months previously*, in February 1974? Yes, we officially consider Pentecost to be the first doctrine "changed." But since Pentecost was not *kept* until the month of June, the reality of the Pentecost corruption was not *fulfilled* until that Holy Day actually arrived and was not observed properly. It would be as if you were invited to a wedding on a particular date in the future. When the invitation arrives, you might say, "I am not going to attend!" But until the wedding day *arrives*, you still have the chance to change your mind and decide to go after all. It is only after the wedding day comes and goes that you will be

counted as having been "absent." Likewise, the announcement of the Pentecost change based upon human scholarship in February 1974 opened the gates for every doctrinal corruption which followed. But technically, Mr. Armstrong still could have changed his mind and confirmed the correct day of Pentecost right up until that Holy Day was to be observed in June. Only after Pentecost came and went—and the Worldwide Church of God followed through on their plans to change it—did the real sin occur.

By comparison, from the moment the announcement was made on May 6 to allow brethren to divorce and remarry, members (and ministers) went out immediately and began to do just that. That means the brethren began to commit adultery for the first time *with ministerial approval* virtually a whole month before the Pentecost corruption came to the full. That is why we say that, effectively, the change in the divorce and remarriage doctrine came first, as measured by the literal act of sinning.

Recall also what Herbert Armstrong had said about this change only *one year* previously in a Bible study at the Ambassador College gymnasium on April 13, 1973:

So I will just tell you now, that I myself, cannot see one scintilla of an argument so far that is going to overthrow the teaching of God's Church on divorce and remarriage. . . If we would do that, brethren, do you know what would happen in less than another three months? I'll bet you nearly hundreds and hundreds of members of the Worldwide Church of God would divorce and they would go out and marry someone else. And that would be the end of the Worldwide Church of God—and Jesus Christ would spue us out of his mouth. And anyone who does go and do that will get spued out. I have to warn you.

We believe Mr. Armstrong was inspired by God to tell the truth, and to prophesy exactly what would occur if that doctrine was ever changed. We believe that indeed God did spue them out of His mouth for embracing such an abomination and teaching it to the people of God. We believe also that the fruits of all that has befallen that church over the past forty years is a testament to that fact.

It is not, therefore, an anniversary which we are celebrating today. Quite the contrary, we mourn for the curses which have accrued to God's people in the aftermath of this apostasy. It is only the fact that we know it was allowed by God for purpose that we take heart. It was necessary for God's people to be tried in order to verify what they really loved. Were they truly convinced that the doctrines were the gift of Jesus Christ by divine revelation? Or had they only accepted them as the teachings of a man? Had they come to love the precepts of God, or were they chafing under God's commands and yearning for "relief"? The results of that apostasy, no matter how painful, have forced the entire church to declare the true source of their loyalty.

Even forty years later, most of those brethren who are still alive are yet in a state of confusion. But we also know that God is faithful to fulfill His promise to gather His dear children out of that spiritual wilderness. We do not know when that will be, but we know it is nearer than ever before. In the meantime, what a joy to celebrate the real Truth with those who have put the pieces together and have recognized what is important. Though at this moment the spiritual sacrifices of the faithful, who are few in number, are surely a sweet-smelling offering before the One True God.

May you remember to think about this forty-year history this month and to thank God for having allowed you the mercy and special gift to see the events of that history in proper context. Through no worthiness of our own, we certainly have been blessed to recognize the awesome work of God today and to have confidence in His promises to redeem Israel.

New Moon

The new moon Sivan (third month), begins Thursday, May 29. The new moon day is Friday, May 30.

Death

We are saddened to announce the death of Erick Oloo Otieno of Suna-Migori, Kenya. Erick lived with his uncle, Mr. Isaya Owak, most of his life and was ready to enter the university this coming fall. He was nineteen years of age at the time of his death. He will be greatly missed by the Church of God, The Eternal youths, the entire church and especially the Owak family. We offer our sincere condolences.

Second Passover

Anyone needing to partake of the second month Passover after ministerial approval, please be advised that it will be May 14, to be observed the previous evening, May 13, after sunset. If instructions are needed, please contact the church office as soon as possible.

Holy Day

Pentecost..... Monday, June 9

Trip Schedule

Mr. Jon Brisby

June 7, 9. Lausanne, Switzerland

Mr. David Brandenburg

June 7, 9. Lausanne, Switzerland

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
CL-2 126	04-03-14	04-26-14	Faith #35
WSE-JB 149-9	04-03-14	05-03-14	Prophecy Revisited #9 Matthew 24 for Today #4
CL-2 127	04-24-14	05-10-14	Faith #36
WSE-JB 149-10	04-24-14	05-17-14	Prophecy Revisited #10 Matthew 24 for Today #5
CL-2 128	04-24-14	05-24-14	Faith #37
Holy Day Mailing	05-01-14	06-09-14	Pentecost Sermons
CL-2 129	05-15-14	05-31-14	Faith #38
WSE-JB 153	05-15-14	06-07-14	What Is the True Source of Your Convictions?
CL-2 130	05-15-14	06-14-14	Faith #39

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby