

## Announcement Letter August 2014

Dear Brethren:

Each month we write this letter to you with hopes that you will be encouraged and inspired to continue strongly in the way of life that God has opened to you. As ones who have minds opened miraculously to understand and to appreciate His glorious plan for mankind, you are truly most blessed amidst the deceived masses on this earth. For now, you are very few in number. For now, what you believe is hated by the world around you. For now, everything in your physical environment is conspiring to discourage you from continuing the spiritual battle. So it is hoped that this letter will be just one small encouragement to help you keep fighting positively to put on the nature of Jesus Christ. The end result of your struggle will be glorious, if you will just hold fast without wavering.

Although we continue to be very blessed as an organized remnant group, we are certainly cognizant of the special personal trials that several of you are experiencing. At least three of our beloved members are dealing with life-threatening illnesses here in the US, which in the absence of God's divine intervention will likely soon result in death. That physical death is not something to fear for those who know God's Truth and are determined to put that way first in priority. But that does not mitigate the empathy we feel for them now in their struggles, and for their families, as they grapple with emotional challenges day by day. There is nothing like a looming "end" to make all of us more cognizant of our own mortality, and the need to invest in something truly eternal.

The best we can ever achieve in this temporary life is still most unsatisfying if there is nothing better to follow. God created each one of us with the inherent *need* for something more. That feeling of *need* is the natural void which exists when God's Spirit is not yet in our lives. By nature, we are born with a "void" in our minds—the existence of an "incompleteness" that can be filled only by God's Holy Spirit merging within us to create a complete, healthy mind. Until that miracle takes place, we all seek our own means to try and find meaning in this life. But all such endeavors have very limited potential to satisfy. King Solomon describes this beautifully in the Book of Ecclesiastes.

Because we know this is true, how blessed are we to have our confidence in the promises of God for that glorious future? Confidence in that knowledge is the very best antidote for the natural sorrow we feel for those who do not have long yet to live in the flesh. May their families who share that love of God's master plan likewise take comfort in this priceless knowledge. The revelation of that way of life and a chance to have a close personal relationship with God through the Spirit is the greatest blessing any of us could ever receive.

## **Death**

We are saddened to announce the death of Mrs. Shirley Sisney of Mahomet, Illinois, on Sunday, August 3, of stroke-related complications. Shirley was sixty years of age at the time of her death and she will be greatly missed. We offer our condolences to her husband, Robert, and her children and extended family.

## **Wedding**

Mr. Jérémie Joseph Litzler and Miss Aurélie Thuy-Lan Lécluse were married June 8 in Lutry, Switzerland, a beautiful little village situated in the vineyards overlooking Lake Geneva. Twenty-seven church members and close family attended the private ceremony which was performed by Mr. David Brandenburg. The weather was very warm, but beautiful, and enabled the ceremony to be held outdoors. We convey our congratulations and best wishes to Jérémie and Aurélie as they begin their life together.

## **New Moon**

The new moon, Ellul (sixth month), begins Tuesday, August 26. The new moon day is Wednesday, August 27.

## **Camp Tejas Report**

This was the thirteenth consecutive year—and the second year in Maryville, Tennessee, in the midst of the Smoky Mountains—that we have been able to have camp. Camp Tejas was originally proposed, initiated and hosted in Stephenville, Texas, in 2002 by Mrs. Jackie Wakefield, with the approval of Mr. Brisby. After our second year at her home, we looked for additional areas to explore and enjoy with the youth. That brought us to the

Austin, Texas, area for our third year, Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, for years four and five, and then to the north and south side of Lake Tahoe in Nevada for years six and seven. Next, we spent one year outside of Seattle, Washington, followed by three years at Camp Lane (in between Eugene, Oregon, and the Pacific Ocean), from where we canvassed out over the state. Each new location brings a variety of challenges but also provides a wonderful opportunity to see and experience the enjoyable American outdoors. Prior to this year's arrival in Maryville, there was considerable rain. However, we are most thankful that the weather did not impact any activities.

Mr-s. Richard Litz graciously provided their home as the base of operations for this year's camp, and we were also able to take a five-day, four-night road trip into the middle-Tennessee area, which was well-planned by Mrs. Mary Anderson. On the opening Friday we enjoyed a sunny day of water skiing, tubing, and use of the slide on the double-decker pontoon boat, captained once again by Mr. Jon Brisby. On the first Sunday, we departed for Music City, more commonly known as Nashville. This year's base camp just outside Nashville was Montgomery Bell State Park, and was really well-liked by the teens and staff (especially in comparison to last year's cabins where we had no power!). We enjoyed (four) small villas on the lake that provided a wonderful opportunity to relax and cool down, coupled with beautiful areas to grill out in the evenings. Monday was a full day and started off with a historic tour of Studio B, where famous artists like Elvis and Patsy Kline have recorded. Next, we went over to the Country Music Hall of Fame and had a private session with song writer James Dean Hicks, who helped the teens perform and record their own CD. After the session and tour of the property, we went on a walking tour of Nashville's historic Ryman Auditorium, which is best known as the original home of the Grand Ole Opry. Following that, there was a little bit of time for shopping before continuing to the twenty-seventh floor of the First Tennessee Bank building, a great view of the city, for a private dinner where the teens could learn and practice their etiquette. While there, some of nature's fireworks went off and gave quite a show. It also cooled the weather for the next several days. The teens were also able to take some great pictures out on the veranda, as well as play out a mock trial (that particular floor of the building is occupied by a law firm).

Tuesday started off with a private coach tour of the stars' homes—such as Dolly Parton, Alan Jackson, and Taylor Swift—with more history of Nashville included. Lunch was taken at Centennial Park, where there was a full size reproduction of the Greek Parthenon. After lunch we went to the Opryland Hotel and walked through the incredible conservatory oasis inside the atrium. There were incredible plants, streams, and waterfalls—the perfect setting for dinner at Cascades, where we practiced more of our etiquette training. Following dinner we went to the Grand Ole Opry show at the Opry House, followed by a really cool backstage tour of the dressing rooms—which included more history of the Opry—and the teens got to take their pictures onstage! Another full day

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On Wednesday we departed for a leisurely trip down the Cumberland River on the General Jackson Showboat. Next, we returned to Montgomery Bell State Park to enjoy our surroundings, grill out, and relax! On Thursday we cleaned up camp and drove to Nashville Shores Waterpark, where we spent a few hours before heading back to Maryville. And then what would camp be without squeezing in some Survivor and Jeopardy in the final days?

Mr. Brisby has always been an avid supporter of our youth and has seen many positive results from camp. However, it is something that is volunteer driven, and as always, this year's camp was made possible only by the dedicated service of a group of volunteers that graciously provided their time and support. Mr-s. Richard Litz once again did a wonderful job with all of the preparatory work and the cooking of meals that really made the camp feel like home; Ms. Mary Anderson did an incredible amount of the planning and coordination of many of the events and activities, and was able to get us into places no one else could have; as well as the camp staff which included Mr. Ryan Armstrong, Miss Michelle Bourget, Mr. Thomas Brisby, and Miss Carissa McAbee. The support of Mrs. Deborah Bussiere was also greatly appreciated for crafting and delivering the design of this year's camp logo, as were the efforts of the local brethren for joining in two fabulous potlucks on the Sabbaths!

Overall, it was another wonderful opportunity for the teens to enjoy time together and to create some great lifetime memories. We are already looking forward to next year's camp. Thanks to all who prayed for a wonderful experience and safe travels because it turned out perfectly! As Mr. Cole used to say, "How about that!"

## **Holy Days**

Feast of Trumpets.....	Thursday, September 25
Atonement.....	Sabbath, October 4
Feast of Tabernacles.....	October 8 (evening service)–October 15
Last Great Day.....	October 16

## Trip Schedule

### Mr. Jon Brisby

September 25, 27 (Trumpets)..... Stephenville, Texas

October 4 (Atonement)..... Maryville, Tennessee

October 8–12 (FOT)..... Townsend, Tennessee

October 13–16 (FOT)..... Yachats, Oregon

### Mr. David Brandenburg

October 8–12 (FOT)..... Yachats, Oregon

October 13–16 (FOT)..... Townsend, Tennessee

## Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-RC 59-32	07-17-14	08-02-14	Despair or Glory, Which? #32 Habakkuk Chapter 3 #2
WSE-JB 149-15	07-17-14	08-09-14	Prophecy Revisited #15 The Man of Sin #3
WSE-RC 59-33	07-17-14	08-16-14	Despair or Glory, Which? #33 Habakkuk Chapter 3 #3
Holy Day Mailing	08-01-14	—	Trumpets/Atonement Sermons
WSE-RC 59-34	08-07-14	08-23-14	Despair or Glory, Which? #34 Habakkuk Chapter 3 #4
WSE-RC 59-35	08-07-14	08-30-14	Despair or Glory, Which? #35 Habakkuk Chapter 3 #5
WSE-JB 149-16	08-07-14	09-06-14	Prophecy Revisited #16 The Man of Sin #4
WSE-JB 149-17	08-28-14	09-13-14	Prophecy Revisited #17 The Two Witnesses #1

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby