

Announcement Letter January 2016

Dear Brethren:

As we cross into a new calendar year, it is a blessing to be able to greet you again and to thank each one of you who receive this letter for your loving support of God's Church at large, and for this little remnant group in particular. It is God who continues to provide every need for us, but it is through each one of you that God has performed a large part of that miracle to help us not only survive all of these years, but to thrive throughout them.

It is always good to remember how weak and vulnerable we each are, and how much we depend upon God's defense and special favor to sustain us, day by day. When we receive His *regular and consistent* blessings, it is easy to begin to take them for granted—to *expect* good things. It requires our diligence of mind to remember to be thankful, to praise God fervently for His kindnesses, and to harness our thinking to avoid presumption or "letting down."

Those of our beloved brethren who currently are suffering serious trials—whether physical, mental, or spiritual—may not have nearly as much problem in taking God's blessings for granted. There is nothing like pain, suffering, disability, or any of the numerous burdens and threats, presented in this current world, to remind us of how weak and vulnerable is our existence. We pray mightily for those of you who are currently bearing one or more of those very serious trials, and we beseech God to grant you mercy, divine intervention, and rest from your tribulations. He truly is a *good God*, and He can be trusted to fulfill every promise He has made to us. Do not despair!

At the same time, those of us who may not be under nearly as much "immediate pressure"—by comparison to those suffering acutely—are nonetheless challenged to avoid *spiritual slumber* and to stir up the Spirit to counter that natural tendency toward *malaise*. How easy it is for us to drift into complacency when things are good. As we have tried to point out to you in recent years, receiving the blessings of God is *just as much a test* as is being forced to endure trials and persecutions. Managing our blessings as *good stewards* is something God is watching, and judging.

The Passover season is later this year on the Roman calendar, but it is still not too early to be doing that self-assessment and reflection about our true spiritual status. Whether enduring trials with good grace and manifesting faith in the face of serious threats, or in remaining zealous and steadfast in managing times of personal blessings, there is serious

work for every one of us to do, and best of all, the opportunity to grow spiritually and to prepare ourselves for a literal reward in that Kingdom that Jesus Christ is soon to bring to this earth.

For as long as God wills to keep each one of us alive in the flesh, we are a spiritual family, and we pray for your individual and collective success in manifesting the kind of spiritual fruits that can be a real light in this dismal world. It is a special pleasure for us to go forward in service to this remnant body, and God willing, we will never take you for granted. As the children of God, you are all most beloved and most worthy of our consistent respect and personal honor.

Camp Tejas for Teens

The purpose of summer camp is to provide a special opportunity for teenage children in the church to participate with their peers in positive, structured, and wholesome activities, founded on our spiritual beliefs. This year the camp will run July 8–18, and will be held in the Walton, Oregon, area. There will be a variety of exciting group activities and fun, fun, fun events throughout the week. You may contact the sponsor, Mr. Dave Brandenburg (602) 482-2999 for more information and registration forms. If you have children between thirteen and nineteen, why would this program not be a top priority for your teen given the negative influences they are all facing in this world?

New Moon

The new moon, Shebat (eleventh month), begins Sunday evening, January 10. The new moon day is Monday, January 11.

Trip Schedule

Mr. Jon Brisby

February 27..... Cape Town, South Africa

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-RC 39-4	12-10-15	12-26-15	Confrontations and Responses of Jesus Christ #4
WSE-RC 39-5	12-10-15	01-02-16	Confrontations and Responses of Jesus Christ #5
WSE-JB 138-37	12-10-15	01-09-16	The Family Handbook #37 Child Rearing #9
WSE-RC 39-6*	12-31-15	01-16-16	Confrontations and Responses of Jesus Christ #6
WSE-JB 138-38	12-31-15	01-23-16	The Family Handbook #38 Child Rearing #10
WSE-RC 39-7	12-31-15	01-30-16	Confrontations and Responses of Jesus Christ #7
WSE-JB 176-1	01-21-16	02-06-16	What Was in the Cup? #1
WSE-JB 176-2	01-21-16	02-13-16	What Was in the Cup? #2

*Somewhere in the original recording of WSE-RC 39-6, about twenty minutes were cut off from the end of the sermon. Unfortunately, there is no way to rectify the loss, so please just be aware that this sermon will end abruptly.

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby