

Announcement Letter February 2016

Dear Brethren:

We are blessed again to have this chance to address you in another monthly mailing, and to express our heartfelt love and appreciation for every one of you—scattered about the globe—holding firm to that way of life that offers so much hope for the future. You are each making sacrifices in order to hold on to that Truth in this very dark world, and we relish your zeal to persevere and to overcome every obstacle. Thank you all for your example of continuity and determination. It is an honor to be part of this body of believers, and we take great comfort and inspiration from serving you.

Because we are already focused on preparing sermons for the upcoming Holy Day season, many of those principles to be covered this year are much in mind. Because of who we are and what we stand for as a remnant group, it is impossible that you will not hear another reconfirmation of *the faith once delivered*. You expect that, and you will certainly get it. But there is a good reason for it. It is not that this ministry is a "one hit wonder," having nothing better to share than the "same old song and dance." No, the reason that Mr. Raymond Cole persistently pounded the concept of *Truth coming by divine revelation through a chosen servant*—and the reason that today's ministry continues to beat the same drum—is that it remains *the single most serious principle* for every one of you to keep in mind!

By analogy, we are like lifeguards patrolling a very dangerous "swimming area" infested by Great White sharks. The beach is posted with warning signs, and the lifeguards move up and down the beach admonishing people to, "Stay out of the water!" But invariably, certain individuals keep insisting on swimming, and the great beasts continue to feast on those mockers who refuse to listen or to take seriously those warnings.

For forty years this ministry has admonished God's people to *hold fast to the original doctrines* that Jesus Christ *made sure to reveal* by miraculous means through Mr. Herbert Armstrong. We spend much time proving, both with common sense and with biblical scholarship, that our *real test for salvation* is to recognize *how* God works, *where* He has worked and *is today* working, and how to *defend against* those who seek to seduce us into "changing." We reinforce the idea of Truth being revealed from the beginning, and our obligation to *hold firm* to that original doctrine. We say it so often that many of you probably wish we would "move on" to something else—something new.

Yet, almost every single time that one of our beloved brethren runs into difficulties and is enticed into leaving the church, it invariably is because they failed to value the concept of the faith once delivered! They insist on swimming in shark-infested waters, spiritually, and they are devoured for shrugging off our warnings.

Over the last forty years this remnant body has been very stable overall, but we still have seen particular times when certain ones have become offended and have chosen to separate themselves. Those moments are extremely painful because we love them and desire so much for their spiritual well-being, but we each must work out our own salvation as free moral agents.

What are common themes among those who have separated themselves in past decades? Individuals who have nodded their heads and claimed agreement with the concept of *Truth that does not change* nevertheless get sidetracked by a particular doctrine that becomes personalized to them. Examples include debates about God's inspired calendar, whether new moons are Sabbaths, whether tithing is still required of Christians, church government, sacred names of God, what makes a marriage, worldly holidays, health and healing, or one of many others. In other words, just about any doctrine that Jesus Christ made part of the foundation of Truth has been and yet will be challenged by someone. And sadly, it has nothing to do with the number of years someone has been in God's church. Some who have practiced faithfully certain original teachings for decades have in later life chosen to become seduced by some technical argument about a particular teaching.

On what basis did they ever embrace the concept of revealed Truth that never changes? How does it happen that this principle is kicked to the curb so readily once a particular pet question surfaces? Did they ever really believe? This is the question that Mr. Raymond Cole asked so many times over the years when faced with the loss of dear friends who once professed solidarity but then later turned off the path. In almost every single case, "becoming offended" is tied to the rejection of *some element* of the original doctrine. (The other major category includes those who do not challenge the doctrine, but simply find no power to live it personally, therefore giving in and fading back into the world.) It is ironic that some in times past have expressed incredulity when a friend leaves over a "technical issue" that seems so minor. Yet when they themselves are later challenged over a *pet doctrine* of their own, they are inclined to do the very same thing. It is only a "small issue" when it belongs to someone else.

Because of that history and because of those facts, rest assured this ministry is going to continue to hammer those *basic principles* and point you right back to the revelation that Jesus Christ gave to us originally. All that you need for salvation has already been given. All that God will judge you upon has already been laid out. You

have been taught what is right vs. wrong and what is the only proper way to serve God. God will judge each one of us on the basis of our acceptance or rejection of those principles. There will be no excuse in that day when Jesus Christ passes judgment upon His people. We have all heard. We have all been taught. The only question remains, how many have truly *embraced* the idea that God is the Author of this salvation enterprise, and that God has made sure to give us *everything we need* to be successful?

Those who are still *restlessly open* to "something new"—because they are dissatisfied with the *spiritual manna* God already provided—are only standing in line to be one of the next to become offended. But for those of you who have *truly internalized* the idea that God reveals Truth that never changes, you are in the very best position to avoid the tantalizing deceptions to come.

May you each be among those who truly *see* and who truly *believe*. If you are, then there is nothing that you need fear as we complete this course toward entrance into the Kingdom of God.

New Moon

The new moon, Adar I (twelfth month), begins Tuesday evening, February 9. The new moon day is Wednesday, February 10.

Holy Days

Lead men should be making appropriate preparations for these days:

Passover (evening)	Thursday, April 21
Night to Be Much Observed	Friday, April 22
1st Holy Day—Days of Unleavened Bread	Sabbath, April 23
2nd Holy Day—Days of Unleavened Bread	Friday, April 29

Trip Schedule

Mr. Jon Brisby

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

March 5..... Lancaster, Lancashire, United Kingdom

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
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
WSE-RC 39-8	01-21-16	02-20-16	Confrontations and Responses of Jesus Christ #8
WSE-RC 39-9	02-11-16	02-27-16	Confrontations and Responses of Jesus Christ #9
WSE-JB 138-39	02-11-16	03-05-16	The Family Handbook #39 Child Rearing #11
WSE-JB 138-40	02-11-16	03-12-16	The Family Handbook #40 Child Rearing #12

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby