

Announcement Letter March 2016

Dear Brethren:

Special greetings to you all as we begin this month of March. As the Apostle Paul greeted the Church in Corinth, so we greet you: ". . . to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 1:2–3).

Spiritual Principle: Voting

In the USA we are now in the midst of an election year, with each state beginning to hold caucuses and primaries to select party nominees for President of the United States, with the final general election coming in November. These statewide elections are already consuming much news coverage and will continue to do so in coming months. As Americans (or citizens of most other "democratic" countries), you are encouraged to exercise your *civic duty* to vote for your local and national leaders. But is this what God wants His people to be doing?

The answer is a resounding "no"! Some in God's church today—perhaps even more than we might imagine—may be ignorant of Mr. Herbert Armstrong's strong teaching against participation in voting. It may have been a "lesser" teaching in God's Church, but it was most definitely part of *the faith once delivered* by Jesus Christ in the twentieth century. It was also one of those doctrines that was watered down during the 1970s and beyond, so many who came to a knowledge of the Truth in recent decades may be unaware of this teaching.

Expect a sermon to be released very soon that will give you the details of this historic teaching and the basis for Mr. Armstrong's *very strong* position on the topic of *voting*. But for this very brief summary, understand that God is the One who sets up and takes down all civic leaders:

This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and *giveth it to whomsoever he will*, and setteth up over it the basest of men (Daniel 4:17) [emphasis mine].

So regardless of what men *think* they are doing—selecting their own leaders, either through election, violent overthrow, or any other method—it is actually God Himself who appoints every single leader within the nations of men. Daniel also confirms the principle that God chooses to give the people the leaders that they deserve, making many of those leaders a curse to them, not a blessing.

If you truly believe that this is a fact, then what would you be accomplishing by voting? Regardless of your *personal opinion* or input—expressed by casting a ballot—God appoints whom He will! Perhaps you think God is using you as an instrument to accomplish His will? If so, then you had better be certain never, ever to vote for the loser. If you do, you are casting a vote in opposition to God's selection. Are you willing to do that? How do you know what man or woman God will choose to set up in authority? Are you seeking to "influence" the process toward selecting a more wise or moral individual? Are there any such people today? And if God is *cursing intentionally* our nations for their moral depravity, who are you to decide to try to mitigate that curse by electing someone who will turn back the tide of decline? In other words, whose side are you on?

What this all means is that, like it or not, anyone thinking they are "making a difference" by voting is denying the active work of God to appoint leaders, and is in fact seeking to wrest authority from God and take it to himself. You may never have understood that before, but now you should. Because of these underlying principles, Mr. Armstrong taught the church that true Christians do not show disrespect to God by deigning to do His business for Him. That is *the faith once delivered* on the matter.

So as you witness the political activities around you in this world, stop to consider that in spite of all the money these candidates are spending, and in spite of all the *strategic maneuverings* they engage in to climb to the top, the outcome of each election has already been predetermined by their King in Heaven. The true people of God have confidence in this fact and are willing to wait to see whom God chooses to elevate. Will you?

Death

It saddens us to announce the death of Mrs. Miriam Donovan, of Lakeland, Florida. Mrs. Donovan died peacefully of age-related causes, February 14, just short of ninety-four years of age. She will be missed, and we offer our sincere condolences to her son, Richard, and extended family.

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

New Moon

The new moon, Adar II (thirteenth month), begins Thursday evening, March 10. The new moon day is Friday, March 11.

Trip Schedule

Mr. Jon Brisby

March 5.....	Lancaster, Lancashire, United Kingdom
April 16.....	Suna-Migori, Kenya
April 21, 22, 23.....	Maryville, Tennessee

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-JB 138-40	02-11-16	03-12-16	The Family Handbook #40 Child Rearing #12
WSE-RC 39-10	03-03-16	03-19-16	Confrontations and Responses of Jesus Christ #10
WSE-JB 138-41	03-03-16	03-26-16	The Family Handbook #41 Conclusion
WSE-JB 178	03-03-16	04-02-16	Pre-Passover Exam What Are We Hiding?
WSE-RC 39-11	03-24-16	04-09-16	Confrontations and Responses of Jesus Christ #11
WSE-RC 39-12	03-24-16	04-16-16	Confrontations and Responses of Jesus Christ #12

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby