

Announcement Letter July 2016

Dear Brethren:

July is here, reminding us that the first half of the Roman year is already past and the remainder of the year is likely to speed by just as quickly. It reminds us that we really do not have time to waste. Neither will we waste time in delaying to greet you again in this letter and in expressing our heartfelt appreciation for all of you who are making choices in your lives "against the grain" of this world. The world is indeed speeding toward its ultimate destruction through the mismanagement of man, but ironically, at the very same time, the called children of God are *applying themselves in training* to assume the reins of government with Jesus Christ in the day that He will intervene to prevent that annihilation. So we greet you again, and we encourage you to *hold fast*, to endure every trial and to keep focused upon that ultimate goal. Your sacrifices today to do what is right and to learn to love God's Way of Life is an exercise that will never disappoint.

Speaking of the year slipping away, now that Pentecost has passed, we are reminded of our need to prepare for the next Holy Days of the seventh month in God's calendar, which will all land in October this year. It is not too early at all to be finalizing plans for traveling to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. For many of you, the anticipation of a trip away from home to observe the Feast is a thrill. For others, the natural tendency is to "stay put," and therefore to venture away from home is a real ordeal. But it is a command of God. He commands us to set aside all other "cares of this life"—no matter what they may be—and to appear before Him in one of those designated places where He has promised to convoke with us. Never forget that those Sabbaths are *the sign* between God and His people. Knowing the Truth counts for little if we are not willing to practice it in reality. It is time for our knowledge of the real Truth to stop being just an intellectual hobby, and to become a Way of Life for us.

We have recently witnessed the death of a number of longtime members of God's Church (which is the topic of the enclosed *Monthly Letter*). The loss of some of these very dear ones is a reminder of how fleeting are these lives, and how suddenly the course for any one of us could be finished. What if this is the very *last chance* you will ever have in the flesh to keep the Feast of Tabernacles? What if God wants you (and all of us) *to pull out all stops* to worship before Him at this particular autumn Feast? God promises that the end comes like a thief in the night (1 Thessalonians 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10). That not only means the literal return of Jesus Christ, but the end of our individual lives, which puts us *immediately thereafter* facing the Judgment in a resurrection. Do any of us really have much "more time"? This is not an attempt to be melodramatic in emphasizing that none of us—no matter

how young or old—can be assured that we have "more time." It is just a fact. May God grant us through His Spirit a proper sense of urgency to put Him first in every decision that is immediately before us.

And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light (Romans 13:11–12).

If we will hearken to this admonition, there is a great reward awaiting. You will never regret putting God first in your life, if you are willing to hold firm until the very end.

New Moon

The new moon, Tammuz (fourth month), begins Wednesday evening, July 6. The new moon day is Thursday, July 7.

Birth

Mr-s. Ryan Armstrong of West Springfield, Massachusetts, would like to announce the arrival of their big baby boy, Porter Elijah. Porter was born Friday morning, June 10, weighed nine pounds, eight ounces and was twenty-two and a half inches long. Carissa and baby Porter are doing well.

Deaths

Mr. Gary Todd of Eugene, OR, died suddenly Sabbath evening, June 4, of an apparent heart attack. He was 77 years of age and a longtime member of the church. We offer our sincere condolences to his son, Michael and his family.

Mrs. Nadine Tapp of Oak Ridge, TN, died June 16 after a long struggle with cancer. She was a vital part of the musical venue of the church and a faithful member since her youth. Nadine was 43 years of age at the time of her death. We offer our condolences to her parents, Gil and Nancy, her sister, Michelle, her brothers, Jason and Roger, and her son, Donovan. She will be missed by all of us who knew her.

Mrs. Paulette DeZur of Eugene, OR, died Tuesday, June 21, from complications of diabetes. She had been a longtime member of the church, but was unable to attend in her last

years because of her health. Paulette is survived by her husband, Robin, her sister Sheila King, and her brother, Doug Anderson. We offer our sincere condolences to them and the extended family.

Trip Schedule

Mr. Jon Brisby

July 16..... (Camp Tejas) Walton, Oregon

July 23..... Danville, Illinois

July 30..... Boston, Massachusetts

Mr. David Brandenburg

July 9..... (Camp Tejas) Eugene, Oregon

July 16..... (Camp Tejas) Walton, Oregon

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-JB 184-1	06-02-16	06-25-16	What Is the Spirit in Man? #1
WSE-JB 184-2	06-02-16	07-02-16	What Is the Spirit in Man? #2
WSE-RC 39-16	06-23-16	07-09-16	Confrontations and Responses of Jesus Christ #16
WSE-RC 39-17	06-23-16	07-16-16	Confrontations and Responses of Jesus Christ #17
WSE-RC 39-18	06-23-16	07-23-16	Confrontations and Responses of Jesus Christ #18
WSE-JB 184-3	07-14-16	07-30-16	What Is the Spirit in Man? #3
WSE-RC 39-19	07-14-16	08-06-16	Confrontations and Responses of Jesus Christ #19
WSE-JB 184-4	07-14-16	08-13-16	What Is the Spirit in Man? #4

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby