

## Announcement Letter February 2017

Dear Brethren:

These monthly mailings often act as markers, reminding us of the rapid passage of time, and it is certainly true for those of us serving you in the home office of the church, as our mailing deadlines approach from one period to the next. But each passing month reminds us how much we have been blessed to be able to do this work in God's service for just a little bit longer, and how much it is worth it for the sake of this collective body of believers. We take this opportunity again to greet you and to encourage you in your endeavors to manifest the mind of Jesus Christ and in setting examples that are pleasing in His sight.

On behalf of the entire Brisby family, I would like to thank all of you for your outpouring of love and support after the death of my parents in December. We have received many cards, letters, emails, and expressions that have been very appreciated, and very comforting. You are all such dear friends and brethren, and it really has been a blessing to all of us to have your outreach. Our many thanks!

### **Spiritual Principle: Fifth Commandment**

In the wake of the recent loss of elderly parents, and likewise as a result of providing ministerial guidance for a number of God's people concerning their own family relationships, a few "pearls of wisdom" have crystalized from those collective experiences which hopefully will have some value for many of you as well. One of many serious challenges in this current Babylonian world is the economic hardship/slavery that prevents many young people from being able to get established with their own families and to become truly independent. More and more extended families are being required to "share space" in order to make ends meet. And there are serious pitfalls in that, even if it may not be avoidable. (Apologies in advance, again, for reverting to the first-person to make these points, but when using a personal story, it seems required.)

For a couple of years in the mid-1980s, when I was in my early twenties, I returned home to live in my parents' home while I was starting a new job and trying to get my financial house in order. (I was also dating my future wife at the time and trying to get prepared to be able to marry.) As an "adult" young man who had already been out on his own several years (I left home for work and school when I was still seventeen), it was difficult in many ways to be back under my parents' roof. I had to work very hard to avoid

making serious mistakes. I made some regardless, but thankfully, God was merciful to me. Here are some lessons that I learned back then which have come back to my mind now that my parents are gone:

- Never forget that God gives authority to the head-of-house over his own domain, and that no one has a right to challenge that authority. While I was under my parents' roof again, I had no "rights" to do things my own way in their home. Having children who grow up does not require forfeiture of personal and family sovereignty for those parents. My parents' home did not become "my domain," just because I was there and thought I was now "mature."
- I had the obligation under the Fifth Commandment to show respect to my parents at all times, regardless of whether I thought they were making right choices or not. I was not my parents' judge. I had no authority ever to try to change anything about them. (They were sincere in managing their lives according to God's laws, but we all have differences of opinion. Being under one roof accentuates the differences.)
- It is God's intent that a young man go out and establish his own domain, in time, separate and apart from his parents. When an adult male is back under his parents' roof, it is not really ideal (even if necessary), and problems are likely to surface. They did in my case, so I learned firsthand about that invisible law and my responsibility to apply that critical Commandment.
- I was happy that my parents were willing to have me back with them for those two years, but I know it was not ideal for them, even as it was not ideal for me. I needed to have my own domain, and so it was important for me to work aggressively to make that happen as soon as I possibly could. Had my parents needed me to take care of them, that would have been different. Back then, they did not. Decades later they did require some help. We must always be willing to make the required sacrifices to show respect under God's Law, and the real blessings will always come in time when we do that. If parents are not their needful dependents, then young men should be working aggressively to establish their own separate domains. (Unmarried young women are different according to God's laws, and should never seek to "get out on their own" except through marriage.)
- I did not fully appreciate my parents as much in my twenties as I did when I became older. I am thankful that I had the time to attain life experiences and to come to value them and to express my thankfulness to them in later years. Had they died before I was able to do that, I would have felt much guilt and regret. Because none of us knows how much time we may have, we should never delay to say thank you to those

parents and elders, and to work to serve them. No matter what personal things may seem to be *so compelling* at the moment, prioritizing God's law of service and respect for others, especially parents, will always pay dividends. It is a legacy worth creating.

## **New Moon**

The new moon, Adar (twelfth month), begins Sunday evening, February 26. The new moon day is Monday, February 27.

## **Holy Days**

Appropriate preparations for these days should begin:

Passover	Sunday (evening), April 9
Night to Be Much Observed	Monday, April 10
1st Holy Day—Days of Unleavened Bread	Tuesday, April 11
2nd Holy Day—Days of Unleavened Bread	Monday, April 17

## **Trip Schedule**

### **Mr. Jon Brisby**

February 11.....	Cape Town, South Africa
March 11.....	Seville, Spain
March 18.....	Lancaster, Lancashire, United Kingdom

## Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-RC 39-31	01-05-17	01-28-17	Confrontations and Responses of Jesus Christ #31
CL2-RC 138	01-05-17	02-04-17	Principles of Christian Living (Series 2): Humility #1
CL2-RC 139	01-26-17	02-11-17	Principles of Christian Living (Series 2): Humility #2
CL2-RC 140	01-26-17	02-18-17	Principles of Christian Living (Series 2): Humility #3
WSE-JWB 22-156-26F	01-26-17	02-25-17	Fund. of Belief #26: Worldly Holidays: Birthdays
CL2-RC 141	02-16-17	03-04-17	Principles of Christian Living (Series 2): Humility #4
WSE-JWB 193	02-16-17	03-11-17	Pre-Passover Exam: I Hate My Life
CL2-RC 142	02-16-17	03-18-17	Principles of Christian Living (Series 2): Humility #5

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby