

Announcement Letter December 2017

Dear Brethren:

By the time December rolls around each year, it can feel like the Feast was more than six months ago, not just two. That is how quickly our worldly obligations and influences reassert themselves and try to dominate. Match that with the pagan holiday season, and—in the Northern Hemisphere—shorter days, and it is a recipe for real challenge to God's people. Is it any wonder that this may be the season when we struggle with some of our greatest mental battles? The called of God are at risk at all times, and in every season, but this time of year often sees many struggle with depression, weakness of resolve, and any number of personal difficulties.

The good news is that all of you have been promised power against every weakness, every challenge, and every enemy. The feelings of darkness and depression do not have to prevail. You are not helpless in the face of these forces, but instead have been promised miraculous power to fight through and preserve your positive outlook, your spiritual resolve, and your hope for the glorious future that God has prepared for you. We all have just as much to be thankful for today as we did when we were gathered together in harmony, celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles. (And if you missed the Feast this year, just think back to the last one you attended.)

With that in mind, we greet you all with renewed love and devotion, and a resolve to continue doing this work to serve the beloved children of God in every place in which God has preserved you around the globe. What a blessing that we have been preserved as a remnant body for so many years, and that we are still being permitted to sustain this physical endeavor to feed God's priceless sheep. There are surely serious tests in our future, but God has seen us through so many threats over the last four decades, and we are still here as a cohesive body, standing firm to preserve God's revealed Truth. It is exciting to think about the blessing involved, just to be part of that operation. It truly is a divine operation, and each one of you is an important participant by virtue of your love for God's Way of Life.

So with those things in mind, you have our sincere prayers for your success in overcoming personal struggles, spiritual battles, and every threat that may be trying to snatch away your hope. We all have much reason to rejoice. We are all part of a church—a filial group, a club, a team—sharing the common goal of entering into the Kingdom of God. Your futures are bright indeed. And the brightness of your hope in

defending the real Truth in your lives, day by day, will see you through every period of darkness. At this time of year, the world revels in their deceptive festivals and false hopes. We instead relish our calling to understand real Truth, and to have real hope in a real Kingdom that awaits.

New Moon

The new moon, Tebeth (tenth month), begins Monday evening, December 18. The new moon day is Tuesday, December 19.

Death

We are saddened by the death of Mrs. Wilma Jo Byrd, Mr. John Byrd's widow. Mrs. Byrd's health had been deteriorating for some time and she died of pneumonia November 21. She was eighty-eight years of age. We offer our sincere condolences to her six children: Cathy, Patricia, Caroline, Paula, Jon, and Pam, and their extended families.

Trip Schedule

Mr. Jon Brisby

December 23..... Don Carlos, Mindanao, Philippines

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
CL2-RC 165	11-09-17	12-02-17	Principles of Christian Living (Series 2): Humility #28
WSE-JB 206	11-09-17	12-09-17	Connecting Deuteronomy 21 to Matthew 18
CL2-RC 166	11-30-17	12-16-17	Principles of Christian Living (Series 2): Humility #29
WSE-JWB 22-163-26M	11-30-17	12-23-17	Fund. of Belief #26: Worldly Holidays: Thanksgiving—Part 1
CL2-RC 167	11-30-17	12-30-17	Principles of Christian Living (Series 2): Humility #30
WSE-JWB 22-164-26N	12-21-17	01-06-18	Fund. of Belief #26: Worldly Holidays: Thanksgiving—Part 2
CL2-RC 168	12-21-17	01-13-18	Principles of Christian Living (Series 2): Humility #31
HFT-RC 1981	12-21-17	01-20-18	What Can We Know About Babylon? #1

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby