

## Announcement Letter January 2019

Dear Brethren:

Special greetings to all of you, dear friends and brethren of the true Faith. Our love and regards for each of you is sincere, and we pray continually that you will not only survive, but thrive, in God's loving care. What a special honor to serve you in this work of Jesus Christ.

The people of this world have just completed one of their major holiday seasons—a time when they express positive feelings about mankind in relation to "god" and hope for a better year to come. Many listen to Christmas carols which proclaim, "Peace on earth and good will to all men," and yet there really is no such "peace on earth." And any "good will" toward neighbor becomes increasingly difficult to find as human society continues to degenerate, year by year.

It all confirms our belief that man—by the very human nature that God gave to him—has an *innate desire* for love and peace, but lacks the wherewithal ever to achieve it by his own means. Without God's Holy Spirit, it is *impossible* for a human being ever to *practice* real love, or to *produce* real peace. He yearns for it, he grasps at it, but it will ever be beyond his reach until he learns to respect and to honor *the only real source of love and peace*.

So in the meantime, human beings continue to write and to speak in platitudes that laud these concepts, ever hopeful that they and their neighbors might one day embrace real love and peace in their hearts, thereby creating that *better world* they crave so much.

In 1991, a convicted small-time thief, Rodney King, was beaten by police officers in Los Angeles, California, and the beating was captured on home video. The later acquittal of those officers sparked six days of rioting in May 1992, resulting in 63 deaths, 2,383 injuries, and more than 7,000 fires within the city. In the midst of the rioting, Rodney King himself made a televised, heartfelt plea for peace, and his most memorable words are now paraphrased as, "Can't we all just get along?"

And is not that very sentiment the same one that human beings have been expressing for thousands of years? Here are just a few of those expressions from our own recent history:

Peace does not mean an absence of conflicts; differences will always be there. Peace means solving these differences through peaceful means; through dialogue, education, knowledge; and through humane ways (Dalai Lama XIV).

Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world (Desmond Tutu).

If the human race wishes to have a prolonged and indefinite period of material prosperity, they have only got to behave in a peaceful and helpful way toward one another (Winston Churchill).

The very first step in nonviolence is that we cultivate in our daily life, as between ourselves, truthfulness, humility, tolerance, loving kindness (Gandhi).

Our task must be to free ourselves from our prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all humanity and the whole of nature in its beauty (Albert Einstein).

Nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral questions of our time; the need for mankind to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to oppression and violence. Mankind must evolve for all human conflict a method which rejects revenge, aggression, and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love (Martin Luther King Jr.).

So human beings certainly crave love and peace. Yet they have never achieved it because Jesus Christ—the very *God Being* who brought all humanity into existence—confirmed that it is *not within us* to solve our own problems (Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:10–18). There is no pagan celebration of Jesus' "birthday," and no New Year's resolution that will ever overcome this *stark reality* of man's inherent depravity. Sometimes, even a few deceived human beings get close to recognizing this fact:

If only there were evil people out there insidiously committing evil deeds, and it were just simple, we could separate them from the rest of us and destroy them. But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being. And who among us is willing to destroy a piece of his own heart (Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn).

Well said. And what is the answer? Who are the only ones who will ever be willing to destroy part of themselves? It is the people of God—the ones who have embraced their calling and committed to *crucifying the old self* and replacing it with the very mind of Jesus Christ. It is Jesus Christ only who is the personification of real love, joy, and peace. By practicing His Law of love, we achieve that change of heart that humanity has always idolized. They will never achieve it by their own means. But the day is coming when they will all have a chance to be taught the real Truth, and to become part of a society ruled by peace.

You are among the few on earth today who understand that grand Plan of God, and are working now to implement it in your own lives. It is God's Holy Days that confirm the true means by which Jesus Christ is bringing love and peace to this world. May God help inspire you to maintain your spiritual focus and commitment to your role in that glorious Master Plan. Real peace and love is truly possible in this world today, but only if it reigns in your very minds through the Spirit of the true Savior, Jesus Christ.

## **New Moon**

The new moon, Shebat (eleventh month), begins Sunday evening, January 6. The new moon day is Monday, January 7.

The new moon, Adar I (twelfth month), begins Tuesday evening, February 5. The new moon day is Wednesday, February 6.

## **Birth**

Mr-s. John McNeil, of Damascus, Oregon, would like to announce the arrival of their fifth child and third daughter, Zoey Renee, who was born Monday, December 24. She weighed eight pounds, and was nineteen inches long. All are doing well.

## **Trip Schedule**

### **Mr. Jon Brisby**

February 2..... Cape Town, South Africa

February 9..... Suna Magori, Kenya

## Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-JWB 222-4	12-06-18	01-05-19	Is Seeing Believing? #4
WSE-JWB 222-5	12-27-18	01-12-19	Is Seeing Believing? #5
WSP-RC 1 10-11	12-27-18	01-19-19	What Is True Christian Character? #10-11
WSP-RC 1 12-13	12-27-18	01-26-19	What Is True Christian Character? #12-13
WSE-RC 90-1	01-17-19	02-02-19	An Analysis of Jude #1
WSE-JWB 222-6	01-17-19	02-09-19	Is Seeing Believing? #6
WSE-RC 90-2	01-17-19	02-16-19	An Analysis of Jude #2

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby