

## Announcement Letter February 2020

Dear Brethren:

While the world becomes a darker and darker place—as we rocket toward the end of this age—the called people of God have reason to be the happiest people on earth. If that sounds counterintuitive, given the serious trials and burdens that come automatically with trying to live a godly life within an increasingly hostile environment, that is understandable. However, it is true nonetheless.

If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me (John 15:18–21).

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing (James 1:2–4).

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world (John 16:33).

If these admonitions by Jesus Christ are real to us, then in spite of our difficulties in trying to survive in this world—in resisting monumental pressures within and without ourselves, and in trying to keep our spiritual heads above water—we can retain *genuine hope and optimism* for the future, because we *truly believe* the promises of God. When that is true, then nothing that occurs to us in this world can rob us of our confidence and our joy in being part of the firstfruits of God's Master Plan.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the

slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:35–39).

That is why this letter is being addressed to those who have reason to be the happiest people on earth. Because of who each of you is in God's glorious plan, you remain special to all of us who are dedicated to your spiritual service, and we greet you in this new month with our appreciation, our devotion, and our commitment to serving you to the very limits of our abilities. May God keep you, strengthen you, and inspire you to *hold firm in your calling* to the very end.

## **New Moon**

The new moon, Adar (twelfth month), begins Tuesday evening, February 25. The new moon day is Wednesday, February 26.

## **New Digital Sermon Library Access**

Many of you are taking advantage of downloading sermons directly from a digital library made available to you on a church computer server. When you are able to receive your sermons in this way (rather than asking for sermons on CD through the mail), it certainly saves you time, and it saves the church a lot of money.

To invest more in this program and to make it much better and easier to use, we are making changes to the process for accessing that library. We are moving that library to a Microsoft Sharepoint, which means it will now reside "in the cloud," rather than on a church-owned computer. If you do not understand all of those terms, that is OK. You can still take advantage of having that entire sermon library at your fingertips by following a set of new instructions.

If you are interested in having access to that new digital library, please email Tim Sherwood ([tsherwood@cogeternal.org](mailto:tsherwood@cogeternal.org)) at the church office. He will then send you an email reply containing detailed instructions for gaining access, including your own personalized username.

Please note that we expect an initial flood of requests, so please be patient as we work through these requests and add individuals as quickly as possible. We appreciate your interest and willingness to work with us on this transition.

**Trip Schedule**

**Mr. Jon Brisby**

February 1..... George, South Africa

February 8..... Lausanne, Switzerland

March 14..... Suna-Migori, Kenya

March 21..... Maryville, Tennessee

## Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-JWB 225-18	01-09-20	01-25-20	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #18
WSE-JWB 225-19	01-09-20	02-01-20	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #19
WSE-RC 90-27	01-09-20	02-08-20	An Analysis of Jude #27
WSE-RC 90-28	01-30-20	02-15-20	An Analysis of Jude #28
WSE-JWB 235	01-30-20	02-22-20	Pre-Passover Examination: Fear or Faith?
WSE-RC 90-29	01-30-20	02-29-20	An Analysis of Jude #29
WSE-JWB 235	02-20-20	03-07-20	Titles, Tasks, & Testaments
WSE-RC 90-30	02-20-20	03-14-20	An Analysis of Jude #30

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby