

Announcement Letter May 2020

Dear Brethren:

Very special greetings to all of you who receive this letter, who value the knowledge of God's true wisdom, and who recognize His wisdom as a gift to the Church through the divine revelation of Jesus Christ. Especially in times when human beings are scurrying frantically—seeking to resolve their problems by worldly wisdom and showing each day how pathetic are their "solutions"—we thank God all the more for granting us a foundation of *true knowledge* that provides a sound means of appraising everything that is transpiring.

More than ever, we may be witnessing part of what God described through Daniel when He said that in the end times, "many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" (Daniel 12:4). Man's knowledge has certainly increased. In the last hundred years the volume of that knowledge has continued to explode, exponentially augmented by the use of technology to capture and to interpret new data. Humankind has never before possessed the powerful tools available today to measure, catalog, monitor, assess, and draw conclusions about the natural, economic, cultural and political realities that exist in this physical realm.

But with so much knowledge available, has it translated into *real wisdom* or *better decision-making* to solve the world's problems? Quite the opposite. Knowledge has certainly been increased. But that knowledge only seems to propel them more than ever to *run to and fro* like chickens with their heads cut off! God absolutely gave to man the capacity to increase his own knowledge. But without a foundation upon which to organize those new findings, man nonetheless is left absolutely clueless in making any profitable improvements for the human race. They believe that they can. They are sure that they can, given enough time. They work all the more and accumulate "new discoveries" at increasing breakneck speeds. Yet all the while, humanity is descending year by year into greater and greater darkness. More misery, more anguish, more pain and suffering, more abuse, more despair, more hopelessness. What good has all of that stunning acquisition of knowledge gotten them? No more than did the acquisition of knowledge in the pre-Flood world lead to man's physical salvation. Knowledge for the sake of knowledge itself only becomes a curse to man. And without guidance from the true Creator, acquired knowledge merely becomes the weapon by which man destroys himself.

An excellent case in point is the response of worldly "experts" to the latest coronavirus and their *so-called wisdom* to try to solve the problem. How pathetic and how asinine. Medical scientists attempt to create statistical models that will predict what will happen. The models are always dismally incorrect. Dire predictions of threats that they imagine do not

come to pass, and then the truly worst calamities for man come totally unexpectedly while they are looking the other way. A fearful population looks to these "experts" to save them, only to find that they are bumbling fools, completely out of their depth and ever reacting to the latest challenge with another "guess." This is all just another way to say what God recorded about the wise of this world:

Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness (1 Corinthians 3:18–19).

O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called (1 Timothy 6:20).

For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? (1 Corinthians 1:19–20)

In spite of the fact that we, as the people of God, know these things and believe them, how many of us are still tempted to "trust the experts" and to buy into their so-called *superior wisdom*? If man's medical experts tell you that you need to submit to some medical treatment or else *terrible things will happen*, are you swayed? When the best and brightest of them tell us that it would be foolish to attend church services during a pandemic, do you believe their fear-mongering and disobey God's command to convoke before Him? Who will you trust in times of calamity, man or God? It is easy to say that we trust God and understand that man is ignorant and foolish, but it is quite another thing to prove it when we are faced with these kinds of immediate choices. Sadly, many of God's people prove under pressure that they really do cherish the wisdom of man above the direction and promises of God.

In the June issue of the *Monthly Letter*, you will receive an analysis of Hebrews 10:25, and what it means to resist *forsaking the assembling of ourselves together* before God. Before that letter is published, think upon this in the meantime:

When human beings run in fear of pestilence, ordering "house arrest" for an entire population and closing down businesses—including public facilities we have rented from vendors and depended upon for our Sabbath and Holy Day meetings—how do the faithful of God continue to convoke as He commanded us to do? If rental halls cease to be available, the only option in many cases is to depend upon faithful church members to open their homes for those gatherings. But how many of you have the faith to do that? Some of you may never before have offered your place for the church to gather. If need be, would you do it

now? And if not, why not? There may be many good reasons, but if the main reason is that you are 1) afraid of fellowship because the "experts" have told us we must avoid assemblies to ward off disease, or 2) afraid of getting into trouble with the authorities for sponsoring an "illegal gathering," stop and ask yourself if you are willing to obey God first in your life or whether you intend to default to man's wisdom and threats. These are the kinds of choices that may well foreshadow the last-day persecutions that Jesus Christ said indeed would befall His Church and the world. How will you respond under pressure? The presence or absence of real faith in our lives may soon be on display for all to see. Please consider it strongly.

We serve a God who has promised to provide for every real need, and to protect us from the true enemies that exist in this world. If we are ones who truly believe in His promises—and in His superior wisdom—then we can be among the few who will make *correct choices under pressure* as we catapult toward the consummation of this age and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. May that time come very soon.

Feast of Tabernacles Planning

We have just received word that during our Feast gathering in Townsend, Tennessee, for Tabernacles this autumn, there is now going to be a very large car club descending upon the area at the very same time that we will be there. This car club normally has their annual gathering in April, but due to the coronavirus response, they have postponed their meeting until early October. With that in mind, if you are planning to attend the Feast in Townsend, it is a good idea to make your reservations early. This has always been the case because of the potential of tourists to the Smoky Mountains from year to year, but it may be especially needful this year in particular.

Death

We were saddened by the death of Mr. Algie Crane of Somerset, Tasmania, Australia. Algie died Saturday night, April 25. He was in his mid 90s at the time of his death, and his health had been declining for the last few years. His wife, Lavinia, preceded him in death. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him. Our condolences are sent to his grandson, Matthew, and his extended family and friends.

New Moon

The new moon, Sivan (third month), begins Saturday evening, May 23. The new moon day is Sunday, May 24.

Holy Day

Pentecost Monday, June 1

Trip Schedule

Mr. Jon Brisby

May 30, June 1 Maryville, Tennessee

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-RC 92-2	04-02-20	05-02-20	What Is Essential for Eternal Life? #2
WSE-JWB 238	04-02-20	05-09-20	We Ought to Obey God Rather Than Men
WSE-RC 92-3	04-23-20	05-16-20	What Is Essential for Eternal Life? #3
WSE-JWB 225-23	04-23-20	05-23-20	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #23
WSE-RC 92-4	05-14-20	05-30-20	What Is Essential for Eternal Life? #4
WSE-JWB 225-24	05-14-20	06-06-20	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #24
WSE-RC 92-5	05-14-20	06-13-20	What Is Essential for Eternal Life? #5

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby