

## Announcement Letter December 2020

Dear Brethren:

Special greetings to all of you holding to God's revealed Way of Life, with prayers by your devoted servants that you may be strong in Spirit and of good courage to face every spiritual challenge. We are thankful that Jesus Christ has preserved us to be able to keep doing this work in your service, and we relish the chance to apply ourselves in providing something that is lasting and meaningful to the called people of God through our letters, sermons, and pastorship.

Well, it looks as if the American people are going to get the leadership they truly deserve. Although the presidential election is still technically unresolved as of this writing, it appears that the ones who hate this country the most may be the ones installed by God to govern. If so, more power to God's process of humbling apostate modern Israelites. We have brought it upon ourselves. The sooner the proud and arrogant of this world are brought low, the sooner we may see the softening of those hearts which are yet redeemable. We cannot get to the Kingdom of God on this earth without forsaking all of the "benefits" of Egypt and Sodom. Are you willing to give them up? How much are we still pining for the society of the Sodomites in which we are all enmeshed? To what extent are we all like Lot's wife? It is something serious to think about.

With all of the scare-mongering over this "pandemic" and the new round of lockdowns—i.e., ever greater restrictions on personal liberties—it is making it that much more difficult to plan ministerial visits to international congregations. If and when the borders open again, we will certainly attempt to utilize any reprieve and to schedule a visit to see you. But there is also a strong possibility that future international travel may be open only to those willing to submit themselves to a vaccine (once one is widely available). Since we never intend to compromise God's Truth on health with these diabolical poisons, this might become the very way that our free movement within society becomes restricted most. Would anyone have imagined that the prophesied *Mark of the Beast* might include the requirement to be vaccinated in order to preserve personal freedoms? Whatever that mark involves, it is going to be compelling and attractive to the world. If we are ones who are truly not "of this world," then it will be something that we reject, no matter what consequences we may face.

Are you willing to face that kind of persecution if required? Will you have the faith to stand firm and depend upon God for your salvation, no matter what the threats of men may include? Sooner or later, we are all likely to face that challenge. If we have not taken stock of ourselves spiritually thus far, it may be high time that we get serious about deciding where our personal faith really lies, and to what degree we are willing to put ourselves in harm's way in order to put God first. We are not asking to be martyrs, but God helping us, if He chooses to use us to be such lights, may He grant us the power of His Spirit to stand firm, even as Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior stood firm when faced with persecution for righteousness' sake.

The Bible is full of examples of the faithful facing such threats. When He sets His hand to make an example among the ungodly, it seems to be a "favorite way" that God brings attention to *real Truth*. We would all prefer to continue enjoying peace and the preservation of our *basic comforts* in this world. Perhaps God will allow more of us to go to our graves still possessing those comforts. If you finish your course in this life with your current blessings and go to sleep to wait for the return of Jesus Christ, happy are you! But if you are one that God keeps alive to see the very end of days, then hold tight and get ready for the ride of your life! To be successful in our calling, we need to prepare our hearts to love God's eternal things more than the things of this world. How are we doing with that?

Right after finishing the draft for this *Announcement Letter*, we received the rough draft of Mr. Robert Burke's *Monthly Letter* (enclosed). It appears that the ministry within this little remnant body has similar things upon our minds. Is it possible that God is impressing the concept upon all of us with real punctuation?

## **Feast Report from England**

A late Feast of Tabernacles message from England: After heroic efforts by the church to get the brethren to Switzerland, the Covid virus took over. However, undeterred, Mr. Jon Brisby found a wonderful site for us near Carnforth, South Lakes, Cumbria. We each had our own chalet situated around a beautiful lake, and met every day for sermons and fellowship in the larger chalet. We were blessed with sun every afternoon, enabling country walks near a canal with barges on it. Shopping in Carnforth, a short distance away, provided us with excellent food and other choices. This was the first Feast of the Church of God, The Eternal to be held in England since 1975.

## **New Moon**

The new moon, Tebeth (tenth month), begins Tuesday evening, December 15. The new moon day is Wednesday, December 16.

## **Death**

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Mrs. Norma Fitzgerald, the wife of Mr. Terry Fitzgerald of Thornton-Clevelys, England. Norma was eighty years of age at the time of her death on Wednesday, November 18. They had been married fifty-nine years. Though Norma was not a member of the church, we enjoyed our time with her when she joined Terry at various church functions over the years. We send our deep condolences to Terry, their family and friends.

## **Contribution Statements**

The cutoff date for 2020 tithes will be December 31, 2020. All 2020 tithes must be postmarked by this date in order to be included in your 2020 contribution statement.

## **Trip Schedule**

### **Mr. Jon Brisby**

January 9 ..... Providence, Rhode Island

January 16 ..... George, South Africa

## Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-JWB 245	10-22-20	11-28-20	Post-Feast Momentum
WSE-RC 92-16	11-12-20	12-05-20	What Is Essential for Eternal Life? #16
WSE-JWB 247	11-12-20	12-12-20	Does God Pick on Women?
WSE-RC 92-17	11-12-20	12-19-20	What Is Essential for Eternal Life? #17
WSE- JWB 248	12-03-20	12-26-20	In Case You Are Ever Wrong
WSP-RC 11-1	12-03-20	01-02-21	Fear, a Powerful Force! #1
WSE-JWB 249	12-03-20	01-09-21	The Role of Conscience
WSE-JWB 225-32	12-24-20	01-16-21	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #32

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby