

Announcement Letter December 2015

Dear Brethren:

A special greetings to all of you in every place that God has preserved you around the globe, with our heartfelt appreciation for your determination to hold fast to God's revealed way of life.

What a contrast from the world is our belief about the proper way to show respect for the one true God. We are now in the midst of the "Christian" world's holiday season—a time that they devote to honoring "God" and Jesus Christ with thanksgiving and birthday celebrations (harvest festivals and Christmas). We resist participating with the world in these celebrations because we know that only those *called to know* God can properly worship Him. Man can be sincere in seeking to honor the God of the Bible, but they are steeped in all manner of pagan practices which not only *fail to be worshipful*, but are in fact *highly disrespectful* to our Creator. All religious observances *not commanded of God* can be traced back in one way or another to the customs of deceived human beings who seek to worship God according to their own standards.

God commanded Israel in how to worship Him. That is why we keep His appointed Feasts and derive great satisfaction in the meaning of those annual Holy Days. Only those days listed in Leviticus 23 are the sign between God and His people. Deceived man "thanks God" in his own way, according to his own rules, and it is impossible that in so doing he will avoid incorporating elements of paganism, no matter how sincere. God's enemy—Satan the Devil—has put his stamp on any and all worldly attempts to show respect for God. How perverse is it that a day ostensibly set aside to honor Jesus Christ (Christmas) is actually an ancient pagan celebration of sun worship? Jesus Christ did not celebrate birthdays nor command any birthday to become "holy." He said instead through Solomon that the day of one's death is better than the day of one's birth (Ecclesiastes 7:1). So man, under Satan's sway, does exactly the opposite. And even if one could show honor through a birthday celebration, why would the date selected be one associated with satanic worship that God hates? Many in this world know that these traditions are not truly "Christian." The origins are easy to verify. Yet many believe it does not matter, and that they can turn something pagan into something respectful to God, just by their own sincerity in "keeping" the day. That is nothing short of *human reasoning* which always demands the right to worship God *as they choose*, not as God commanded. Israel was still calling on the name of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as they made offerings before the golden calf. Man thinks God should be willing to accept any "sincere" form of worship. God says instead that He will

accept only the forms of worship He has commanded, and being a jealous God, He has a right to demand that we do things His way.

So this is often a difficult season of the year for God's called people. But instead of fretting over today's abominations of the heathen, focus instead upon the glorious future that is coming when Jesus Christ returns and begins to teach *all peoples* what is the right and proper way to honor God and to thank Him. You have the chance to show the world that proper form of worship now, if you are putting Him first in keeping Sabbaths and Holy Days. The world thinks you are strange, and even antisocial, when you do not worship with them. But the day is coming—if we are willing to put God first and bear the temporary persecutions of this world—when your examples will be an historical witness to teach future peoples.

If you can see our current world in the context of that comprehensive Master Plan, then you should still be able to endure this season with joy and anticipation. We refuse to celebrate with them, but we know that they all one day will be given a chance to know the true God and to learn to worship Him properly. We relish that future and take comfort in the knowledge of revealed Truth. How blessed are we to be freed from the false practices of this current evil world and that spiritual enemy. May God keep you in strength and in faithful confidence.

Death

Madam Andrée Rousset, a longtime member of our church in France, died Tuesday, November 10, of age-related causes. She was 96 years of age. Madam Rousset was very artistic in many ways, and we very much enjoy singing the song she wrote for our hymnal. She will be missed. We offer our condolences to her family.

New Moon

The new moon, Tebeth (tenth month), begins Sabbath evening, December 12. The new moon day is Sunday, December 13.

Trip Schedule

Mr. Jon Brisby/Mr. David Brandenburg

January 9..... Don Carlos, Mindanao, Philippines

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-RC 39-3	10-29-15	11-28-15	Confrontations and Responses of Jesus Christ #3
WSE-JB 173	11-19-15	12-05-15	Fall 2015—Where Do We Stand Today?
WSE-JB 174-1	11-19-15	12-12-15	Gog and Magog—Revelation vs. Speculation #1
WSE-JB 174-2	11-19-15	12-19-15	Gog and Magog—Revelation vs. Speculation #2
WSE-RC 39-4	12-10-15	12-26-15	Confrontations and Responses of Jesus Christ #4
WSE-RC 39-5	12-10-15	01-02-16	Confrontations and Responses of Jesus Christ #5
WSE-JB 138-37	12-10-15	01-09-16	The Family Handbook #37 Child Rearing #9
WSE-RC 39-6	12-31-15	01-16-16	Confrontations and Responses of Jesus Christ #6

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby