

Announcement Letter December 2019

Dear Brethren:

The days speed past, one after another, and with that passage of time we may or may not reflect upon our roles in the history of God's Church that are being written right now. In the midst of our personal battles—trying to keep up with every new daily challenge and just getting by in this world—it is easy to miss the big picture that is playing out. But perhaps this greeting to you in the last month of this Roman year will help remind you that you are indeed the called people of God, and because of that calling, you are fulfilling a very crucial role in human history.

Jesus Christ made a promise that in the last days before His Second Coming, nothing would be permitted to destroy a faithful remnant of His true Church (Matthew 16:18). Wherever it is, that remnant will be preserving the revealed Faith against every force of evil and deception. Even in the darkest of times before the dawn of His glorious appearance, that little flock will be preserved miraculously as a fulfillment of His binding promise. Through weak and very unimpressive *called out ones*, this great God is going to do a work to make fools out of all of the self-righteous, vain, and arrogant peoples in this world. That purposeful God is going to humble the proud through the faithful acts of the weak and the base. It is always the way He likes to write the storyline. The Bible is full of that very theme, including the liberation of a slave people from Egyptian bondage through no power of their own, the defeat of many superior armies by a ragtag few, like Gideon's three hundred, the slaying of a giant warrior by the sling of a small shepherd boy, and many others. The overriding theme is that this purposeful God likes to bring the high and mighty to a state of humility through the use of ordinarily weak and powerless individuals.

All of you who receive this letter are among those weak and powerless in this world today. Of yourselves you have no great or significant abilities, and you certainly have not attracted the praise and appreciation of the world or its lofty institutions. Even within the Church of God family at large—including all of those who came out of the Worldwide Church of God—those of you who have chosen to affiliate with this particular little remnant body are considered laughable because you keep a Monday Pentecost, defend a "hard-line" definition of marriage, and refuse to follow their concept of "growing in grace and knowledge." They consider you weak and foolish. What power do you have? What intellect or wisdom do you possess? None of yourselves, that is for sure.

And yet, the day is coming when God once again is going to humble the proud—the ones who have rejected His revealed Way and turned instead to their own perverted concepts. He is going to pull back the curtain and reveal their abominations, and He is going to use once again a very few weak ones to accomplish that great Work. We do not know how or when, and we refuse to presume or guess at the details. That is God's business. But the theme of His work is consistent through all time, and He seems to love to bring down the haughty through the miraculous support and strengthening of physically weak, howbeit spiritually faithful, servants. In the day that this purposeful God sets His hand once again to recover Israel out of a spiritual wilderness, the invisible few who have been holding firm to that Faith will become incredible witnesses to accomplish His purpose. We are not talking about the arrogant and self-serving who crave to be like a Moses or a David, but the ones who actually shine a very great light simply because of faithfulness to revealed Truth under great duress. In those who manifest real conviction in the Faith, God will use their example of faithfulness to teach the whole world.

We believe that you are part of that very small remnant today, living in virtual obscurity but working to put on that real faith in your lives, day by day. If you can always remember how great is your calling, how great is your understanding of God's true revelation and what happened to destroy God's church in the twentieth century, and if you can maintain your focus to continue striving to defeat your own carnal nature and to replace it with the very mind of Jesus Christ, then you may well be among those whom God uses in a day coming to confound the mighty and to magnify His Work to the apostate church and to the whole world. And if you are ones who do not live long enough to see that very great Work that is promised, you are still fulfilling a key role right now, in holding firm to revealed Truth as a confirmation of Christ's promise that a faithful remnant will never die out.

So as you toil and struggle in your lives to resist evil, to cultivate real faith, and to hold firm to the faith once delivered, never forget that you are helping fulfil—right now—Christ's promise of a continuing remnant. The day is coming when your participation in that divine work right now will be written in history and used to teach the generations to come. Never doubt the significance of what you are doing. Never presume anything for the purpose of personal vanity, but at the same time, please never underestimate the significance of your trials and your efforts to resist sin. It all matters. It matters a lot.

New Moon

The new moon, Tebeth (tenth month), begins Saturday evening, November 28. The new moon day is Sunday, November 29.

Office

Contribution Statements: The cutoff date for 2019 tithes will be December 31, 2019. All 2019 tithes must be postmarked by this date in order to be included in your 2019 contribution statement.

Death

We are saddened by the death of Mr. Garner Kirby, of Veneta, Oregon. He died at home Monday morning, November 25, and was 91 years of age. He was a longtime member of the church with roots going back to the 60s in Radio Church of God. Garner had outlived his entire family. We all will miss him very much.

Trip Schedule

Mr. Jon Brisby

December 28..... Don Carlos, Mindanao, Philippines

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-RC 90-21	10-24-19	11-30-19	An Analysis of Jude #21
WSE-RC 90-22	10-24-19	12-07-19	An Analysis of Jude #22
WSE-JWB 225-16	11-28-19	12-14-19	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #16
WSE-RC 90-23	11-28-19	12-21-19	An Analysis of Jude #23
WSE-JWB 225-17	11-28-19	12-28-19	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #17
WSE-RC 90-24	12-19-19	01-04-20	An Analysis of Jude #24
WSE-RC 90-25	12-19-19	01-11-20	An Analysis of Jude #25
WSE-RC 90-26	12-19-19	01-18-20	An Analysis of Jude #26

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby