

Church of God, The Eternal

P. O. Box 775
Eugene, Oregon 97440
www.cogeternal.org

Raymond C. Cole
Director
Jon W. Brisby
Asst. Director

Offices in:
Philippines
Switzerland

Announcement Letter July 2000

Dear Brethren:

Warm and personal greetings to all. As we have said in the past and will continue to say, you are in our hearts and minds daily. Those who are faithful are rare, indeed. We are told by God, "many are called, but few chosen." Just how rare the chosen are is becoming more evident yearly, and at times we are forced to wonder if we should not say "daily"? "He that endures to the end" takes on more significant meaning on a monthly basis. The question of just who will remain faithful is more troubling day by day. Some whom we would never have suspected of a lack of conviction or indifference have faltered and turned away from "the faith." These final years before the return of Christ are critical years—years of testing. The trial of faith is upon us all. Please do not lose your direction in these times of troubled waters (Matthew 14:25–33). Just remember God gave the message of Truth to some chosen servant in these last days. That message is the same as believed and practiced by the faithful since the days of Moses. Any change means someone has made or is making a colossal mistake. And you may be sure the mistake does not come from God or Christ. They are unchanging. The Word of God cannot change. Therefore, we re-emphasize, we do not intend to change any of the eternal truths which God gave to His Church in the last days. What we want to obey are the ways given to Moses, magnified by Christ, taught to the apostles, and given to an end-time servant. Those ways we love, honor, and respect.

We have always tried to organize our sermons, writings, and other work. God is organized and so should we be. To that end we have created sections for the *Announcement Letter* under which we list specific items. From time to time we have found need to increase the number of specific sections. In this *Announcement Letter* we want to mention the addition of a couple of new sections. First, for some time it has seemed needful to create a section under which title we will give a Holy Day report as needed. We would like to share with you the news from other areas where God's people have congregated according to His command. The heading for this section will be "Holy Day Reports." To make this section useful and inspirational we will need to hear from our lead men in all areas where Holy Days were observed. They can call or write to us. We then will summarize the material we receive.

A second category seems essential. So many situations seemingly arise where explanations are necessary—explanations which apply quite broadly in the Body of Christ. The heading for this section will be simply, "Explanations." We will use this section as need dictates. In this issue of the *Announcement Letter* you will read the first of these explanations.

Holy Day Reports

This is a new department for the *Announcement Letter*. With the help of lead men from their respective areas we can make this section both informative and inspirational.

With respect to Pentecost this year let me simply say for all areas from which we have heard the called and converted were inspired and greatly enjoyed and appreciated the day.

I was in Switzerland. Christine Sherwood and her daughter were there too. Christine is my translator—the one through whom I can speak to our French-speaking brethren. Mr. Jon Brisby and his family remained here in Eugene for the day. God gave, in both areas, rewarding and meaningful services. I have heard much good regarding both areas. Also, the general reports were marvelous from other areas. We hope to augment this section in the future. For this time we want you to know the feelings of members from all areas from which we have heard. In the future we will try to expand this section of the *Announcement Letter*.

Explanations

For this month we need to address an issue which was generated by an editorial written by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong in the March 1938 issue of *The Plain Truth Magazine*. In it he explains the matters of love and doctrine. What was happening at that period of time was a mental war among the people who had professed some level of belief in the Truth of God. Yet, each was so strongly convinced of his own opinion that all minds were closed. None was ready to receive any form of instruction or correction. This teaching should have come only from the ministry in the first place. But tragically each had asserted his opinion and was ready to do battle with anyone who disagreed.

If not careful, many false presumptions can arise from the article. Did he say that doctrine was not important? Not at all. He said, "We do not mean to imply that whatever a man believes is right, or that it makes no difference so long as we have love." He further stated that the mission of *The Plain Truth Magazine* was to teach and correct. What should be obvious is this: It is the duty of the ministry to preach and teach the absolute Truth. But, the members should not be argumentative or judgmental toward one another. The ministry

should decide the level of instruction given and tolerance needed for individuals to properly grow (compare John 21:15–17, 1 Corinthians 3:1–3, and 2 Peter 3:18).

What the article is showing is this:

1) Love is the fundamental principle of the Holy Spirit which guides and regulates all our thoughts and actions.

2) Doctrine does not provide the weapons by which the members can or should contend with one another.

3) What should be taught and the level of that instruction should come from the ministry. The members should and must manifest tolerance and respect for one another.

4) Individual growth is imperative until we all come to the same level of belief and conviction (1 Corinthians 1:10).

5) The article does not imply that it is a choice of either love or doctrine. Neither subject is fully defined in the editorial.

6) The article combined with other Biblical material make it clear that both concepts are essential—that it is a proper application of both.

Excess Second Tithe

Just a yearly reminder of the need for second tithe to cover administrative and facility costs for the Feast. We want you to reserve adequate for an enjoyable and meaningful Feast. At the same time, we *all* must remember, to keep the Feast requires the rental of halls, transportation, aid to those who are deserving, etc. If we all contribute, the burden for each is relatively small. A huge thanks to those whose hearts and minds are willing. May God richly and abundantly bless you in all ways.

Second Tithe Requests

Please be reminded the deadline for second tithe requests for the Feast of Tabernacles is August 15. Any who need assistance should notify us in ample time.

Trip Schedule

July 22	Knoxville, Tennessee	J.W.B.
August 19	Port St. Lucie, Florida	J.W.B.
September 30 (Trumpets)	Sacramento, California	J.W.B.

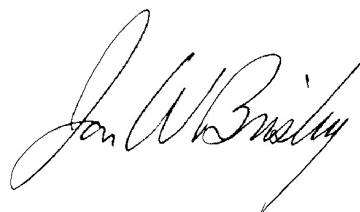
Tape Schedule

<u>Tape Series</u>	<u>Mailed</u>	<u>Played</u>	<u>Title/Tape #</u>
WSE-RC 92-13	06-07-00	07-08-00	What Is Essential for Eternal Life? #13
WSE-JB 17-11-7A	06-07-00	07-15-00	Fund. of Belief #7A (Sin and Law)
WSE-JB 17-12-7B	06-21-00	07-22-00	Fund. of Belief #7B (The Eternal Law)
WSE-JB 17-13-8	06-21-00	07-29-00	Fund. of Belief #8 (Christ's Sacrifice)

In Christ's Service,



Raymond C. Cole



Jon W. Brisby