

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter August 2000

Dear Brethren:

Once again we take joy in expressing our special love and regard to all of you—God's people—wherever you are scattered about the world. From the headquarters of this remnant operation in Eugene, Oregon, we send you greetings and affirm our heartfelt prayers for your safety and prosperity. There is no greater blessing for us than to give our all in the service of those who truly love Jesus Christ and prove it continually by a steadfast devotion to Truth. Though we are a small and scattered remnant, we are strengthened in the knowledge God has promised to uphold those who tenaciously cling to His priceless revelation.

As we progress further along this time–line leading to the eventual return of Jesus Christ, we seek to maintain our vigilance in performing the work of the ministry—that service and support necessary to safeguard and strengthen the sheep of God's fold. In so doing, we have tried to be mindful of the needs of this scattered congregation and do everything we can to respond to those various needs. More than ever we have become cognizant of the critical importance of the lead men in specific areas, and their value as our representatives for executing certain duties. With only two ministers in the United States to serve a dispersed congregation, the role of these lead men, who are our delegated helpers, should not be underestimated. As do we, our beloved ministers in Europe and the Philippines work tirelessly to travel to visit scattered brethren, yet their personal efforts alone can sometimes be insufficient to meet day-to-day needs. Some of them have also depended upon helpers to cover many aspects of that ministerial service.

Many of our lead men in the United States have already been certified in times past through ordination, either by the laying on of hands in the Worldwide Church as deacons, or by this very ministry in recent years. Their work in facilitating the physical planning for commanded convocations and for communication and support of local members on an ongoing basis is easily taken for granted, yet invaluable to our overall work. The ministry is charged by God to care for His people. Yet those delegated helpers are an integral part in our fulfilling that required service.

For that reason, we have discussed for some time the potential benefits of expanding the scope of this delegation in particular areas to include not only the physical planning duties of a deacon, but perhaps additional services to meet the continual needs of our members, including the authority to perform anointings. In fulfilling our obligation as shepherds of the flock, God has given us the authority to enlist the help of others to act on our behalf to fulfill those required services (Titus 1:5). It is our concern we may not be doing everything we should—if we are not making more use of the elders within this scattered body—that prompts our current consideration.

While no definite decisions have been made, it appears there may be other benefits to expanding these roles as well, besides just the ability to anoint. Even though we are a small group now, we have begun to receive a marked increase in contacts from former members of the church, as well as people searching for the Truth who have no former roots in the Worldwide Church. Contacts by mail and through the Internet are asking for information about the nearest minister or representative. We do not know when God will begin to recover many of His lost sheep, but could it be we should be preparing now for a potential influx, when greater help may be required? These are the things now weighing upon our minds.

Lastly, at a time when the legitimate servants of God are being ridiculed and maligned as never before in this age, might there be value in providing an additional certification for certain men, to eliminate any doubt that they are working under our auspices, carrying the specific authority delegated to them as our agents? These are all things that have become a part of our thinking for the last several months.

Brethren, at this time, we ask that you pray about these things, and join with us in seeking God's perfect will for fulfilling these critical administrative functions within the church. With God's direction, we know we can carry out this commission fully, to serve the sheep he has sent to us—and those He will yet send—before the final revealing of His Son—that great King—Jesus Christ.

Feast of Tabernacles

Please continue to pray that God will grant us a peaceful and rewarding observance in all areas where He has set His name—the appointed areas. Your fervent prayers will make a very great difference.

Excess Second Tithe

Just a 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, 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.

Second Tithe Requests

As mentioned last month, 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.

Returning Used Cassette Tapes

Those driving to the Feast may bring cassette tapes that are no longer being used. We will once again transport them back to Eugene from the Feast sites. In Townsend, Tennessee they will be collected and boxed for shipment. Mr. Tim Sherwood will be responsible for collecting and boxing. Remember, you may keep any tapes which are not clear or white. Duplication of Feast sermon tapes requires an enormous number of new cassettes and these returned tapes help to offset the cost.

Deaths

Mrs. Ila Nenstiel: Mrs. Nenstiel of Goldendale, Washington, died July 21 after a short illness. She was 80 years of age. Our condolences are expressed to her family. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Mr. Robert Seibel: We are also very saddened by the death of Mr. Seibel of Petersburg, West Virginia, on August 2, after the onset of an incredibly aggressive illness. He was 68 years of age. Our heartfelt prayers go out to his wife, Marie, and their children, Deborah, Beverly, and Charles.

Trip Schedule

August 19	Port St. Lucie, Florida	J.W.B.
September 30 (Trumpets)	Modesto, California	J.W.B.
October 14, 21 (FOT)	Townsend, Tennessee	J.W.B.

Tape Schedule

<u>Tape Series</u>	<u>Mailed</u>	<u>Played</u>	<u>Title/Tape #</u>
WSE-RC 90-29	07-05-00	08-05-00	An Analysis of Jude #29
WSE-RC 92-14	07-05-00	08-12-00	What Is Essential for Eternal Life? #14
WSE-RC 90-30	07-19-00	08-19-00	An Analysis of Jude #30
<u>WSE-JB 17-14-9A</u>	<u>07-19-00</u>	<u>08-26-00</u>	<u>Fund. of Belief #9 (Christ's Resurrection)</u>

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby



Raymond C. Cole