

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter October 2000

Dear Brethren:

Subject: Pentecost tape—made in Florence, Oregon, 1975.

Before anyone can understand the significance and meaning of the above statement it is necessary to give limited historical background. Please bear with me.

In the latter 1960s and the early 1970s the subject of Pentecost had become a political football. Many self-appointed experts were writing on the subject. At the same time old files were being literally rifled in search of any material which the searchers could use in an attempt to substantiate a pet concept—either proof for a Sunday Pentecost or a Sivan 6 Pentecost. During this period of time a special Doctrinal Committee was made up of evangelists, college teachers at Ambassador, and, or writers for the various magazines published by the college. I was a member of that committee for a short period of time. The purpose of the committee was to review, not only the subject of Pentecost, but a host of doctrines which had been taught for nearly 40 years.

I did not become overly concerned about these reviews initially because, based on my own personal experience, I was absolutely convinced Mr. Armstrong would defend the premise of divine revelation which he had done in the past. None can imagine the shock I experienced when the church was told Mr. Armstrong had accepted the change from Monday to Sunday. For years, he in comparable fashion to the Apostle Paul and the other apostles insisted God had revealed to him the Truth which we were teaching.

In 1975 I was speaking to a number of people on Pentecost congregated in Florence, Oregon, to keep a Monday Pentecost as we had always done—to honor the revelation which God had given to His last day servant. I was giving the reasons for which I continued to observe a Monday Pentecost—the only day which Mr. Armstrong had always insisted God revealed to him.

Being aware of some of the earlier writings he published for the small local congregation here in Eugene as well as limited members in other communities here in Oregon and Washington and scattered people in the United States, I commented about the possibility Mr. Armstrong had followed the Jewish tradition. It seemed entirely logical he would have followed the Jewish tradition because of his intense belief that God had committed to the Jewish tribe (as a part of Israel) the obligation of preserving the calendar and the statutes and laws.

In very short order, however, he began to speak against the possibility of Sivan 6 being an acceptable day for Pentecost. Sermons were being given to the local people explaining why Sivan 6 could not be correct. Pentecost requires a count. Keeping of a Sivan 6 requires no necessity to count. That is the reason Pentecost was kept on Monday from 1937 forward—until the change of 1974.

We have no problem with documentation of the day Pentecost was observed from 1937 on. A record was kept. It was always on Monday. Since there is some evidence Mr. Armstrong came to the knowledge of Holy Days in 1934, that means only the years 1934, 1935, and 1936 were uncertain years. Sivan 6 fell on a Sunday in 1934 and 1937. We have as mentioned earlier evidence Pentecost was observed on Monday of 1937. Therefore, very quickly after he came to the knowledge of the Holy Days he was led to believe and KNOW that Monday was the correct day for Pentecost. But Satan was not finished with his destructive influence. Once Mr. Armstrong became convinced, by God's leading of the accuracy of Monday, the concept of a Sunday surfaced. Yet, we need take little thought about Sunday. Why? Interestingly, once Monday Pentecost was established in Mr. Armstrong's thinking, the work began to grow mightily. If the Sivan 6 date were correct, why did the work not begin its expansion from an earlier date when Sivan 6 was observed? And of even greater interest is this: Almost immediately after the change of Pentecost—from Monday to Sunday in 1974—the church began to dramatically fall apart. The only time it grew powerful and strong was when it kept a Monday Pentecost.

I had been taught very early in my life, that which Mr. Armstrong was teaching had certification of revelation. The phenomenal growth certainly substantiated that claim. Over the years he had emphatically stressed God's revelation regarding Monday Pentecost.

On the occasion of one of my last conversations with Mr. Armstrong he stated emphatically, "Raymond, I never kept a Sunday Pentecost." This statement was made after a Sabbath service in Pasadena in 1973. The premise of the statement was the above chaos resulting from the broad proliferation of challenging concepts from nearly every direction.

Somewhere in between 1975 and 1998—the year I answered a personal letter—I had unwittingly transferred the object of Mr. Armstrong's statement—Sunday to Sivan 6. He was so emphatic in his statement that I must have assumed, at the time, since a couple of Sivan 6 dates fell on Sunday, he included them in his statement. Reviewing the matter once again, I still feel he probably kept a Sivan 6 date for perhaps a couple of years. It makes sense considering circumstances here in Eugene, his acquaintance with prominent Jewish individuals of the city, and his strong conviction that the Jewish people were charged by God with the obligation to maintain the calendar and to bring the laws, statutes and judgments down to the chosen people of the last days, he would have initially followed their example.

Therefore, my statement that he never kept a Sivan 6 Pentecost was in error. If this momentary confusion on my part has caused anyone difficulty, please forgive. At the moment it seemed to be absolutely logical. But, what appears to be correct is this: He never kept a Sunday as a Sunday Pentecost. He kept a Sunday only when it was the Sivan 6 date in 1934—if he had begun keeping Holy Days as early as Pentecost in 1934.

Final comment: All the arguments, and subsequent confusion generated about Pentecost is totally irrelevant.

1) Mr. Armstrong never claimed Sivan 6 came to him as revelation. He merely followed the rabbinic custom, and not without serious misgivings, until Monday was revealed.

2) A Sivan 6 Pentecost did not produce a blessing from God. The church and the work did not grow and expand until the church observed a Monday Pentecost.

3) While observing a Monday Pentecost the church—undergirding the work—became one of the largest and most influential religious works, if not the largest, of all time.

4) That church and work began to decay and splinter at the very time the date for Pentecost was changed. Was it the fulfillment of the stinging prophecy in Malachi 2:3? Undeniably, the one Holy Day which destroyed the church was Pentecost.

The purpose for this explanation is to apologize for my unwitting statement in the personal letter as indicated above. All the fruits prove beyond the shadow of doubt, for the called people of God, the validity of a Monday Pentecost. Can most deny the fact they were called and baptized at the time the church honored the true Pentecost—Monday? Can anyone deny the church began to rapidly decay with the change of Pentecost? Does that not say it all?

Office

In our desire to keep the office running efficiently, we occasionally need to update our procedures. Please be advised that we have made changes to the cassette tape library. Some of the code numbers have been changed so you will need a new cassette tape list to be sure of ordering the correct tapes.

The new lists will be available at both Oregon and Tennessee Feast sites or we will be happy to send one to you upon request. Please order only from the new tape list to ensure receiving the correct tapes.

Also, we are asking that you please be patient as we try to fill the Feast tape requests after the Feast. There are many tapes to process from both sites. We will try to keep it all running as smoothly as possible but if there is a lag in the regular bi-monthly tape mailing, we thank you in advance for your patience.

Trip Schedule


October 9 (Atonement)	Williamsburg, Kentucky	J.W.B.
October 14, 21 (FOT)	Townsend, Tennessee	J.W.B.
November 11	Austin, Texas	R.C.C.
December 16, 23	Philippines	J.W.B.

Tape Schedule

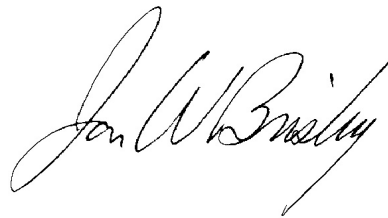
<u>Tape Series</u>	<u>Mailed</u>	<u>Played</u>	<u>Title/Tape #</u>
WSE-JB 22-17-10B	09-13-00	10-28-00*	Fund. of Belief 10B (Spiritual Conversion)
WSE-RC 92-17	09-27-00	11-04-00	What is Essential for Eternal Life?
WSE-JB 26-1	09-27-00	11-11-00	The Testimony of Jesus Christ
WSP-JB 27	10-11-00	11-18-00	Unfinished Business
WSE-JB 26-2	10-11-00	11-28-00	The Testimony of Jesus Christ #2

*Fundamental of Belief 10B (Spiritual Conversion) was scheduled to be played 10-14-00 as stated in the last *Announcement Letter*. Instead, the date this tape should be played is as listed above (10-28-00) since we will be attending the Feast of Tabernacles on 10-14-00 and 10-21-00.

In Christ's service,



Raymond C. Cole



Jon W. Brisby