

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter January 2001

Dear Brethren:

Warmest greetings to all our beloved brothers and sisters of the common faith. By this means—the monthly *Announcement Letter*—the ministry has the opportunity and privilege of conveying their heartfelt love and respect to you once again. We daily pray that all are well and greatly blessed.

January 2001! Even with all the hoopla and fanfare leading up to January 2000, it did not seem as strange and unthinkable as January 2001. I could not give you a reason. But, the feeling is there. It may be only psychological; but, it could indicate something more dramatic and sinister. Certainly, we all know that on some morning, little or no different from this very morning on which I am writing this introduction, circumstances prevailing in the world will be different—dramatically different. We have already seen a considerable number of the prophesied events for these precarious days come to pass. That is the insidious aspect of unfolding prophecy. The called of God need to be reading and thereby aware of events destined to occur. Yet, of equal significance, is the need to refrain from specific interpretations. Until revealed by God, specific persons, dates, and even events cannot be ascertained positively. This fact, however, does not mean that the called should not read and be aware of the Biblically indicated events of those traumatic last days (Matthew 24:32–44). Jesus had just completed His explanation of the question which the disciples had asked, ". . . Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" (Matthew 24:3). Obviously, we need to continue to read and maintain a good recall of those events which Jesus listed. Then by careful watching—not interpreting—we will be adequately equipped to fulfill our spiritual obligation of the moment. We will know that which God elects to reveal. As our Father, a perfect and compassionate Father, He will not leave us in darkness and without understanding. We are His children. As such He wants us to possess perfect patience and faith. To develop those priceless traits requires much experience. As a character builder, our God—and Father—is daily allowing or even precipitating tests and circumstances by which those marvelous traits are learned and become integral parts of our attitude and orientation. For that reason we are instructed to count it all a joy, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh

patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing" (James 1:2–4). God wants us to possess the divine nature. Of this very fact, Peter was inspired to write: "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust" (2 Peter 1:2–4).

Imagine, called of God to become partakers of His perpetual existence and of His very divine nature. What a privilege bestowed upon the called and faithful. Is it any wonder that those who lose sight of their call and purpose will be denied entrance into that phenomenal promise?

Please, be faithful children. Words cannot adequately explain the depth of desire and hope we entertain for you. Your achievement of that promised inheritance cannot help but enlarge the satisfactions of the faithful ministry.

Remember, though we be thousands of miles separated geographically, you are always just as close as our minds and hearts. By circumstance you have insinuated yourselves into our daily consciousness.

Philippine Trip Report (By Jon W. Brisby)

Once again, we were blessed with an inspiring trip to visit our brothers and sisters of the common faith in the Philippine Islands during December. The trip was very successful, and it was rewarding to convoke with those faithful ministers and brethren who really love God's Truth. The political climate continues to be volatile, yet God continues to preserve the scattered brethren. We enjoyed warm fellowship on the islands of Luzon and Mindanao with Sabbath services and Bible studies in each area, as well as the pleasure of visits with a number of brethren in their homes. The hospitality was sincere and heartfelt, as has been the case in every past visit. Mr. Mario Roque, Mr. Corsino Canta, their families, and the brethren all send their love and regards to God's people in North America, Europe, and all of the places where that faithful remnant exists today.

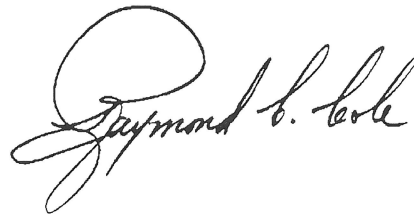
Trip Schedule

February 10	Baltimore	R.C.C.
March 10	Knoxville, Chicago	J.W.B.

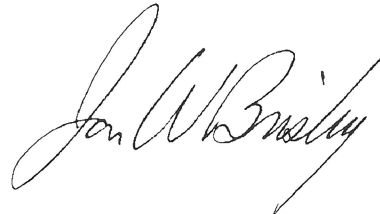
Tape Schedule

<u>Tape Series</u>	<u>Mailed</u>	<u>Played</u>	<u>Title/Tape #</u>
WSE-RC 94-3	12-20-00	01-13-01	The Faith Once Delivered #3
WSE-JB 22-20-11C	12-20-00	01-20-01	Fund. of Belief (Passover, Beginning of the 14th)
WSE-RC 94-4	01-03-01	01-27-01	The Faith Once Delivered #4
WSE-JB 22-21-11D	01-03-01	02-03-00	Fund. of Belief (Jew's Passover vs Christ's Passover)

In Christ's service,



Raymond C. Cole



Jon W. Brisby