

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter April 2001

Dear Brethren:

We relish, once again, the opportunity to write to you—the faithful children of God—and express our love and respect for all of those who continue to value the priceless truths of God. We send warm regards and love from all of us here in Eugene, Oregon, to the scattered brethren whom God has miraculously preserved within this small remnant.

We cannot help but marvel at developing circumstances in the world today. It is difficult to hear any of the latest news from around the world without thinking of the very prophecy Jesus Christ uttered to His disciples, when describing the conditions that would exist just prior to His Second Coming.

And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows (Matthew 24:3–8).

There is a particular set of circumstances yet to occur which Christ called the beginning of sorrows. It includes the proliferation of false Christs, escalation of wars and skirmishes among nations, hunger and privation, epidemic outbreak of disease, and a surge in the frequency and severity of earthquakes worldwide. The first four of these correspond specifically to the imagery recorded by John in chapter six of the Book of Revelation, detailing the first four seals to be opened by Christ, pictured by four symbolic horsemen.

We have already witnessed a marked increase in the level of religious confusion, as the name of Christ is used more and more to promote abominable concepts. This is especially the case among those who were once called to a knowledge of the Truth. There are no better examples of false Christs than those being espoused by hundreds of ministers who once believed and kept the Truth, but now have molded Christ into their own image. In spite of consistent calls for peace by world leaders, we have seen only the escalation of conflict among the nations, especially in the middle east. Images of hunger and starvation have become common in the news, and what shall we say about human and animal diseases now plaguing many nations, including the epidemic foot and mouth disease of western Europe? Also, what about the marked increase in the number of earthquakes now occurring about the globe?

Are we entering the time that Jesus Christ called the beginning of sorrows? No one can say for sure. Such would only be speculation, and we do not intend to get caught in such traps. But we have been admonished to watch, and to evaluate by the things we see occurring. "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors" (Matthew 24:32–33).

Whether we are seeing the manifestations of the beginning of sorrows or not, it behooves each one of us to take stock of our current spiritual condition. Why? Following those conditions denoting the beginning of sorrows is the opening of the fifth seal, which represents the great tribulation (Matthew 24:9–12, 21, and Revelation 6:9). If we have truly put away the fallacious mental concepts that God calls idolatry, have embraced our responsibility to cling to the revealed doctrines of Christ which we first learned through God's end-time servant, have learned to practice real love and personal sacrifice in dealing with others, and are walking in real faith day by day, then we have an opportunity to escape the punishment awaiting God's rebellious children.

The winds of trouble are blowing. Each day that passes brings us that much closer to the time of great revealing. My dear brethren, let us work fervently now to prepare for that inevitable reality, while there is still time for spiritual preparation.

Second Passover

Anyone needing to partake of the second month Passover, please be advised that it is May 7—to be observed the previous evening, May 6, after sunset. If instructions are needed, please contact the church office as soon as possible.

Ordinations

If you will remember, in the August 2000 issue of the *Announcement Letter*, we commented on the critical nature of the services rendered by our lead men in strategic areas around the country. As time goes on, we feel their roles will become even more crucial in helping this ministry serve the scattered brethren of the remnant flock. It is difficult for two ministers based in Eugene, Oregon, to provide requisite support for every local need that may arise. It must have been very similar circumstances that influenced God's ministry in the first century to delegate responsibilities to selected men, by way of ordination (Acts 6:3–6, Titus 1:5).

Likewise, we are pleased to announce that Mr. Leon Whitaker will be ordained on the last day of Unleavened Bread, April 14, 2001, at the Holy Day service in Eugene, Oregon. He will be given authority to anoint for healing, and provide personal counseling to those in his appointed area, the northern Oregon/Washington region. Mr. Whitaker has already demonstrated the requisite personal fruits in his work as a lead man in this area for a number of years. This ordination will serve to confirm the authority we have delegated to him—of that which God has given to us—in acting to assist the faithful members of God's church. We appreciate the support of each member for Mr. Whitaker, and for the men who will yet be selected for ordination in the coming months.

Trip Schedule

June 2, 4, 9	Switzerland, United Kingdom	J.W.B.
July 21	Baltimore	J.W.B.

Festival Greetings

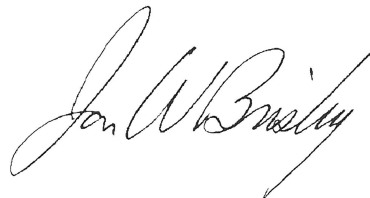
To the faithful children of God around the world in these last days, Mr. Raymond Cole, his wife, Myra, Mr. Jon Brisby, and his wife, Kim, would like to wish each one of you a rewarding and inspiring Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread. May you be strengthened in the confidence of that which we received by divine revelation, and experience the rich blessings and peace of mind that come from your faithful obedience.

Tape Schedule

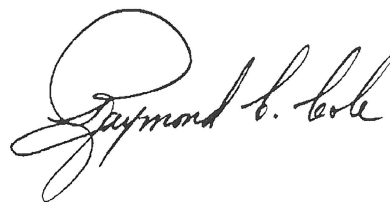
Tape Series	Mailed	Played	Title/Tape #
*Holy Day Tapes		04-14-01	
WSE-RC 93-9	03-14-01	04-21-01	The Continuing Body of Christ #9
WSE-RC 93-10	03-28-01	04-28-01	The Continuing Body of Christ #10
WSE-JB 22-26-13B	03-28-01	05-05-01	Fund. of Belief (The Holy Days Depict God's Plan)
WSE-RC 93-11	04-11-01	05-12-01	The Continuing Body of Christ #11

* Tapes have been sent for Passover (evening of April 6), Night to be Observed (April 7), and the first and last Holy Days of Unleavened Bread (April 8, 14).

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby



Raymond C. Cole