

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter May 2001

Dear Brethren:

Warmest greetings to God's beloved children once again. Another opportunity to take cognizance of those we love to serve. A hearty thank you for the faithfulness and loyalty to your Father who called you—a Father who is the epitome of mercy, compassion, and love.

On the other hand, the called of God are aware that humanity lives in a time of darkness—a darkness which will grow more intense until the day of Christ's return.

The growing darkness which we experience is not a mere absence of physical light. No, rather it is a growing hatefulness and violence. If one were asked to describe our present world of existence, what singular statement could be appropriately used? Though used in various ways and at diverse times, still the most comprehensive and revealing expression would still have to be, "a world of violence and hatefulness." Most of the people of this world do not feel comfortable and confident in lying down at night to rest and sleep. How many areas, even in the more "cultured" West, are parents manifesting a growing uneasiness about sending their children to public schools? We need not concentrate on the more exotic and well-dramatized—national and ethnic clashes, school shootings, and manifestations of domestic violence is all too often swept under the rug. Yet, the intentional covering of family problems cannot altogether efface this growing problem. It is perhaps the most serious of all areas of difficulty.

What is happening to people? Before we address the cause, we need to be made aware of two profound facts—one historical and the other prophetic. Since we live in the time of the prophetic let us begin with that area of concern. When Jesus Christ was teaching His disciples the way of life which they were shortly to be commissioned to proclaim, He was asked about the time of His return. He responded: "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe

entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matthew 24:36–39).

What were conditions like in the day of Noah? In Genesis 6:5–8, 11–13 we read: "And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD. . . . The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth." The earth was filled with violence and all flesh had rejected God's way. Does not the first—violence—proceed from the second—rejection of God's way? Indeed! From that perspective the one typified the other—the historical typifies the prophetic.

Does not the national, even worldwide, concern about these growing problems significantly indicate the closeness of that inevitable date—the day of Christ's return?

Peoples of the world are deeply concerned, even frightened. How should true Christians respond? Though troubled by the abuse and hatefulness of people in general yet by faith they can remain confident and assured. Why? Of these very times David wrote:

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways (Psalm 91:1–11).

Spring Festival Convocations

We were happy to receive reports from ministers and lead men around the world about the inspirational Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread they all experienced. It is so reassuring to know that God is faithful to grant us such marvelous blessings of peace, harmony, and spiritual rejuvenation when we are willing to obey Him and appear annually in those places where He has placed His name. We look forward to the opportunity to further strengthen those bonds of unity between us in the keeping of Pentecost within a few short days. Let us pray collectively for God's continued mercy and favor upon our solemn assemblies, as we seek to submit ourselves to His perfect will.

Holy Day

Pentecost: Monday, June 4, 2001

Feast of Tabernacles, Townsend, Tennessee

For those attending the Feast of Tabernacles at the Townsend, Tennessee site, we strongly recommend that you make or firm up reservations as soon as possible. It is a very popular tourist area plus the state is reworking the highway which goes through Townsend.

For newer people, please call Mr. Bill McCammon at the following telephone number: (865) 984-6585. He will be able to advise you or assist you in obtaining necessary information about availabilities. You can then make your own reservations.

Report and Comments About the Fast and Prayer for the Infirm Among Us.

Mr. Jon Brisby and I want to thank you all for the marvelous manner and enthusiasm manifested in this service for your brothers and sisters of the common faith.

From early reports we have received, much good has already been experienced. But, please continue to pray, none are yet completely out of the woods. Both they and we of the ministry extend continued heartfelt gratitude and appreciation.

When the object of our faith and prayers is realized we will let you know.

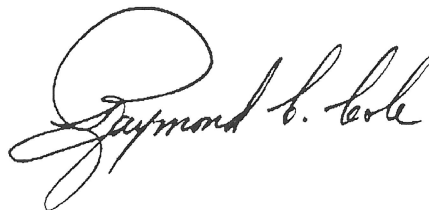
Trip Schedule

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

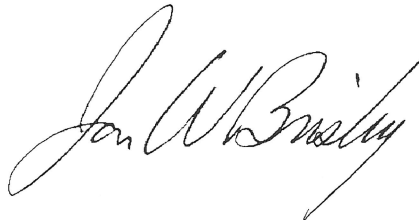
Tape Schedule

Tape Schedule	Mailed	Played	Title/Tape #
WSE-RC 93-11	04-11-01	05-12-01	The Continuing Body of Christ #11
WSE-JB 28	04-11-01	05-19-01	Are We Ready for Christ's Return?
WSE-JB 30	04-25-01	05-26-01	What Is Real Sacrifice?
WSE-JB 22-27-13C	04-25-01	06-02-01	Fund. of Belief (The Holy Days and the Old Covenant)
WSE-RC 93-12	05-09-01	06-09-01	The Continuing Body of Christ #12

In Christ's service,



Raymond C. Cole



Jon W. Brisby