

# Church of God, The Eternal

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The late Raymond C. Cole  
Founding Pastor  
Jon W. Brisby  
Pastor, Director

Offices in:  
United States  
Philippines  
Switzerland

## Announcement Letter November 2001

Dear Brethren:

To the faithful of God in these perilous times, we greet you once again and express our heartfelt love and appreciation for each one of you who are partakers of the Holy Covenant, scattered about the face of this earth. May we never forget how priceless are those who have sacrificed so much in their lives to obey God and hold fast to that revealed way of life we received from Jesus Christ.

As you are all aware, Mr. Raymond C. Cole died in his home of a serious stroke on Tuesday, September 25, two days before the Day of Atonement. We are all greatly mourning the loss of this faithful minister of Jesus Christ who meant so much to us, especially over the last twenty-five years as he stood alone to defend God's immutable Truth in the wake of that foreordained apostasy. It is so easy to take for granted the value of the service he rendered and underestimate the level of faith it required for him to stand firm to the very end of his life. But Raymond Cole left us an example of what a true servant of God should be. He never claimed to be perfect or infallible humanly, but he certainly manifested the fruits of God's Holy Spirit in his tireless devotion to that original doctrine we received through Mr. Herbert Armstrong, and his personal sacrifice for the people of God. His entire life was defined by his calling to the ministry, and in the midst of the most volatile times we have seen to date in the history of God's Church in the last days, Mr. Cole proved that he was not motivated by money, fame, or personal acclaim. He simply loved that way of life he had learned from Mr. Armstrong, accepted it as the priceless gift of God Himself, and took upon him the yoke of faithful obedience and self-sacrifice for the elect in this age.

This author is incapable of fully expressing the true depth of meaning of the work Jesus Christ performed through His faithful instrument, Mr. Raymond Cole. It was Christ's work through him that gave this unworthy writer his foundation in life—as I know it did for the majority of you as well—and allowed us to make sense of all that has transpired in God's Church over the past tumultuous decades. After the thousands of sermons, articles, and letters he wrote over the course of a fifty-year ministry, it appears the very best way to

summarize his significance in the plan of God for the help of spiritual Israel of the last days, is this:

God used Herbert Armstrong to reveal His Truth to the end-time Church. God then used Raymond Cole to teach that Church how to hold on to that Truth.

What will be the legacy each one of us will write, as those who now continue toward the Second Coming of Jesus Christ? May God grant us the love, devotion, and tenacity to apply the rich lessons we have learned at the feet of God's chosen servants, and press forward to secure our crown in His glorious Kingdom. There is much work yet to be done. We have not yet seen the recovery of most of God's lost sheep. They are yet wandering in darkness and deception and need a light to bring them home. May we all continue to manifest that light of the Holy Spirit in these darkening days, that we may be the instruments of Jesus Christ in the next era of His work. When God sends them again at the time of His choosing, we need to be ready to receive them and help them.

Below is a transcript of the eulogy given at Mr. Cole's graveside funeral service on Friday, September 28, in Jefferson, Oregon, in conjunction with the religious service originally written by Mr. Herbert Armstrong:

Raymond Clifford Cole was born in Fairview, Oklahoma on December 14, 1926. He was the second child of nine born to Otis and Nellie Cole, who were members of the Church of God, Seventh Day. Otis Cole was a farmer, and his sons learned the value of very hard work from a very young age. But after a devastating tornado in 1934, it became impossible for Otis to put the homestead back together. Finally, in July, 1936, when Raymond was nine years old, the family moved to Oregon, in large measure because of the magnetic pull of a man preaching to Sabbath-keeping groups around the Northwest at that time, named Herbert W. Armstrong. They settled right here in Jefferson, Oregon, near Otis Cole's brother and family, and just north of Eugene where Mr. Armstrong was beginning his work. At a young age, Raymond Cole became very affected by Mr. Armstrong's speaking. He graduated from Jefferson High School in 1945, and was active in a small Sabbath-keeping congregation at Scrael Hill. When Mr. Armstrong decided to open Ambassador College in Pasadena, California, Raymond Cole was one of four freshman students in the inaugural class of 1947. On March 14, 1950, Raymond Cole married his beloved wife for life, Miss Myra Carter. Together, they became part of the foundation of Mr. Armstrong's work in those early years of the Radio Church of God, an organization that was destined to become one of the strongest and most vibrant religious works which has ever

occurred. Mr. and Mrs. Cole were the first ones sent out on a national baptizing tour through the southern states, after one earlier personal trip by Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong. Raymond Cole was also the first man commissioned by Mr. Armstrong to take on specific ministerial responsibilities, when he was sent to Oregon for a year to resolve difficulties within some local congregations. This necessitated Mr. Cole postponing his senior year of college, graduating a year later in 1952. It was this same year that Raymond Cole was ordained by Mr. Armstrong as an evangelist, along with six other men—the very first of such ordinations. Thereafter, Raymond and Myra Cole moved over forty times in the next twenty years, serving the church with their whole hearts. Their oldest daughter, Lynn, was born in Vancouver, Washington, and Jann was born in Big Sandy, Texas. Because of the work of the ministry, Mrs. Cole has often said their children grew up in the back seat of a car.

Raymond Cole was an uncommon man. Many are frequently eulogized at their passing as having loved God and sacrificed for their fellow man, but few have ever really demonstrated that example the way Raymond Cole did. He lived his life in service to the One True God, and in sacrifice for the flock of Jesus Christ for over fifty years. Men who stand on principle are never accepted unanimously in their own time. Anyone who demonstrates the dogged determination to speak the truth, regardless of its political palatability, will be appreciated by some, but loathed by others. Even the founding fathers of this nation, as well as the men of God—who we all revere today—were characters of controversy while they lived.

So too, Raymond Cole stood his entire adult life, resolutely committed to a way of life that he knew to be True, and like the great historical servants of God, he was not swayed by situation ethics or motivated by personal self-interest. The revelation he had received through God's chosen servant was based on the belief that God has not called the entire world to a knowledge of real Truth at this time, but only a few, and according to His divine purpose, even as the Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 1:26–27. "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty." Raymond Cole understood that God is not now locked in a battle with Satan for the souls of men, but instead, the perfect will of God is now being performed on this earth, according to His marvelous plan for the salvation of mankind, and the coming Kingdom of God. Raymond Cole knew that it was Herbert W. Armstrong

whom God called in these last days to proclaim that singular way of life and that glorious plan of salvation. Raymond Cole also knew we had received the very revelation of Jesus Christ, and he faithfully devoted his life as a minister of that one and only Way. Even when that parent church organization that he loved so much began to refute those immutable truths over twenty-five years ago, it was Raymond Cole, and Raymond Cole alone, who stood to defend those original teachings, even at risk to his personal reputation and the livelihood of his own family. He never compromised his convictions. He knew—and he knew that he knew—*The Truth* from the beginning. That was his continuing focus as founder of Church of God, The Eternal in 1975. But as determined as he was in asserting the absolute nature of truth, he dealt with individuals in kindness, mercy, and loving guidance. He was humble and unpretentious. He provided for each of us the very example Christ Himself taught, forbearing our weaknesses, and seeking to help and uplift in every way possible. Raymond Cole did not become a minister for personal gain, recognition, or acclaim. He feared God, loved Truth, and sought to sacrifice himself for the benefit of others. He worked tirelessly and drove himself to produce the work of three men. In the end, even as the Apostle Paul stated in 2 Timothy 4:6–8 as he neared completion of his life, so does it apply to another faithful servant that we knew and loved; Mr. Raymond Cole. "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

Raymond Cole died at home of an apparent stroke on Tuesday, September 25, 2001, at 1:20 P.M. He is survived by his wife Myra, his daughters Lynn Cole and Jann LeBleu, eight brothers and sisters; Elden Cole of Gresham, Oregon, Ella Mae Walker of Eugene, Oregon, C. Wayne Cole of Tyler, Texas, Charles Cole of Eugene, Oregon, Leroy Cole of Green Valley, California, Alfred Cole of Eugene, Oregon, Arlene Hamm of Eugene, Oregon, and Ester Glover of Eugene, Oregon. He is also survived by three grandchildren, Lorrell, Charisse, and Jesse, and three great grandsons, Benjamin, Shawn, and Ethan.

## **New Schedules**

Work on the 2002 schedules has begun and new schedules will be sent out to lead men as soon as possible. Your patience will be appreciated.

## Holy Day Reports

**Townsend, Tennessee:** The Feast in Townsend was attended by 106 people. It was a time of great excitement, enthusiasm, and closeness. The weather was very pleasant and the Feast was truly enjoyed by everyone in attendance.

**Newport, Oregon:** There were 82 attending the Newport Feast site. The weather was beautiful along the coast and the feeling of oneness was very present. A very enjoyable Feast for everyone.

**Kandersteg, Switzerland:** The 30 people attending had very nice weather. They felt deeply the loss of Mr. Cole but felt it brought about a great resolve, love, and unity among them. It was a very beautiful Feast for them.

**Luzon, Philippines:** Mr. Corsino Canta reported that by the end of the Feast there were 21 in attendance. The weather was excellent and sunny. Unity and excitement prevailed during the whole Feast.

**Mindanao, Philippines:** Mr. Mario Roque said 67 happy brethren enjoyed the Feast in Mindanao. They had rain almost every afternoon and considered it a blessing as it improved the warming condition of the weather there. God's Feast was very joyous to all of them.

**Mosselbaai, South Africa:** Mrs. Lydia Bouwer and her two children had a very wonderful Feast with lovely accommodations right on the beach. Though they wait patiently and hope intensely that God will send others to meet with them, they still very much appreciate and enjoy God's Feast. It was a special time for them.

## Camp Tejas For Teens

Mr-s. Bill Wakefield and Mr-s. Karl Chance have volunteered to sponsor a teen summer camp from June 30 through July 8 at the Wakefield's home in Stephenville, Texas (Tejas in Spanish). The purpose is to provide a special opportunity for teenage children in the church to participate in positive, structured, and wholesome activities with their peers, founded on our spiritual beliefs. Although Church of God, The Eternal is not the sponsor of this program, we are certainly eager to assist the Wakefields and Chances in promoting this service to our families with young people. The Wakefields have the capacity to accommodate teens in chaperoned facilities, and plan a variety of exciting group activities and events throughout the week. Mr. Jon Brisby is planning to be in Stephenville during this week and conduct the Sabbath service July 6 for all local brethren and visitors. If you are

a parent with a teen who will be age 13 to 19 by August 31, 2002, and are interested in this opportunity, please contact the Wakefield's at (254) 965-7882 or the Chance's at (865) 483-7282.

## Recipes

Mrs. Danya Chance has offered to compile a recipe book containing favorite whole food recipes of church members. She is anxiously awaiting your wholesome recipes. The brethren are welcome to send Mrs. Chance their recipes or tips and she will put them together in a printable format ready to be distributed. Her address is: 189 LaSalle Rd, Oak Ridge, TN, 37830. Her e-mail address is: [dtdanya@aol.com](mailto:dtdanya@aol.com).

## Mr. Brisby's Trip Schedule

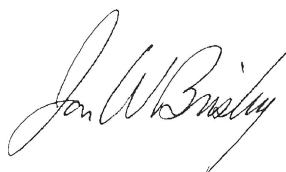
December 15, 22

Philippines

## Tape Schedule

Tape Schedule	Mailed	Played	Title/Tape #
WSE-JB 33-3	09-26-01	11-03-01	What Is the Unity of the Spirit?
WSE-JB 32	10-17-01	11-10-01	The Beginning of Sorrows.
WSE-JB 33-4	10-17-01	11-17-01	What Is the Unity of the Spirit?
WSE-RC 33R	10-31-01	11-24-01	Compromise
WSE-JB 33-5	10-31-01	12-01-01	What Is the Unity of the Spirit?
1976 CA Conference	11-14-01	12-08-01	Answers to Accusations—1976

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby