

Church of God, The Eternal

P. O. Box 775
Eugene, Oregon 97440
www.cogeternal.org

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

Offices in:
United States
Philippines
Switzerland

Announcement Letter August 2003

Dear Brethren:

Greetings once again from your devoted servants and brethren in Eugene, Oregon. It is such an honor to address the sincere and faithful people of God who are proving daily their determination to hold fast to God's Truth in these difficult times. You are much loved and appreciated, and with God's guidance, may we never fail to acknowledge the significance of your collective sacrifice as members of the Body of Jesus Christ. Those sacrifices you are making today within this evil world will be rewarded in the near future with power, glory, peace and happiness unimaginable, if we have the spiritual vision to keep our eyes focused on God and His magnificent plan.

It is very difficult to do so at all times, and we all have moments when we are subject to despair. God knows this, and He has therefore provided the means for us to have the fortitude to carry on—no matter how heavy our personal trials may get. That power comes through real faith and confidence in Jesus Christ, and absolute conviction in His promise to help us and guide us through dark times. Many of you are experiencing serious trial even now. But it is for reason that we suffer in this Christian endeavor. There are critical lessons God is teaching us which will become invaluable in the future. Not only are some of these painful experiences necessary to help us prepare for the critical trials ahead—before the return of Jesus Christ—but those experiences will also make us better leaders in that new world government of God. Notice how those same human trials were integral to Christ's preparation to become a King.

Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him (Hebrews 5:8–9).

In like manner, we too must endure trials in this life as a critical element of that training and qualification as those following in the very footsteps of Christ and preparing now to assume offices of leadership in His glorious Kingdom.

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us (Romans 8:16–18).

Brethren, no matter what you may be bearing at this moment, if you can keep your eyes focused on our real purpose in life, and be reflective about the reality of God's soon coming Kingdom, you can have the power to endure and conquer any trial in this life. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12). It is that vision of the future which gives us proper perspective to respond to difficulties day by day. "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he" (Proverbs 29:18).

May you all continue steadfast in that Way of Life you have received as a priceless gift from God. The glory that awaits is worth any sacrifice required in this temporary existence. Our prayers are for your determination to fight through and continue to be bold witnesses of that Truth by the simple fruits of Christ Jesus manifested in your lives. It is a privilege to be your servant in His precious name.

Camp Tejas Update

We are glad to report another very successful summer camp for church teenagers sponsored by Bill and Jackie Wakefield at their Texas home. We are thankful for God's protection and blessing for all who traveled to and from Texas—both teens and camp staff members—and for their safety during all of the many events they enjoyed together during the ten-day program. On behalf of the church we want to thank all of those who volunteered significant time, effort, baked goods, and funding, making many personal sacrifices for the benefit of our young people. The camp was incredibly well-organized and administered, and that is a reflection of wise and judicious planning. We also want to thank all of the teens who made it a priority to take advantage of the opportunity this summer and share constructive time with others in a positive environment. Your behavior was exemplary, and very much appreciated by all those who came together to make Camp Tejas a reality.

Holy Days

Feast of Trumpets: Sabbath, September 27

Atonement: Monday, October 6

Feast of Tabernacles: October 11—October 17

Last Great Day: October 18

Trip Schedule

September 27 (Trumpets) Modesto, California

October 7–14 (Feast of Tabernacles) Townsend, Tennessee

October 15–18 (Feast of Tabernacles) Newport, Oregon

Returning Used Cassette Tapes

Those driving to the Feast may bring cassette tapes that are no longer being used. We will once again transport them back to Eugene from the Feast sites. In Townsend, Tennessee, Mr. Bill McCammon will oversee collecting and boxing tapes for shipment. Duplication of Feast sermon tapes requires an enormous number of new cassettes and these returned tapes help to offset the cost.

Excess Second Tithe

This is just a yearly reminder of the need for second tithe to cover administrative and facility costs for the Feast. We want to reserve adequate for an enjoyable and meaningful Feast. At the same time, we all must remember, to keep the Feast requires the rental of halls, transportation, aid to those who are deserving, etc. If we all contribute, the burden for each is relatively small. A huge thanks to those whose hearts and minds are willing. May God richly and abundantly bless you in all ways.

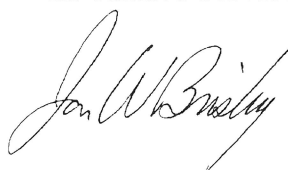
Second Tithe Requests

Please be reminded that requests for second tithe assistance for the Feast of Tabernacles need to be in by August 31. Any who need assistance should notify us in ample time.

Tape Schedule

Tape #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-JB 22-58-21D	07-03-03	08-02-03	The Basics of the Pentecost Count
WSE-JB 22-59-21E	07-17-03	08-09-03	Assembling Elements of the Pentecost Count
WSE-JB 22-60-21F	07-17-03	08-16-03	More Technicalities of Pentecost
WSE-RC 40	07-31-03	08-23-03	Faith
WSE-RC 60	07-31-03	08-30-03	Does Love Condone Sin?
WSE-JB 54	08-14-03	09-06-03	How Does the Holy Spirit Inspire the Ministry vs. the Laity?
WSE-RC 22	08-14-03	09-13-03	Who Asked You? #1

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby