

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 September 2003

Dear Brethren:

From all of us devoted to your service, from the headquarters of this small but resilient remnant body, we send greetings and warm regards to you—the scattered assembly of God's faithful people. You are all remembered very often in our prayers, and we hope and pray you are continuing to find God's loving mercy in your daily lives.

Here we are, just a few short days before another Feast of Trumpets celebration. For those who have come to love God's glorious plan of salvation pictured by the annual Holy Days, it is an exhilarating time of year. While the world clamors for satisfaction in their empty pagan holidays in the fall and winter seasons, we know we have been blessed to receive holy and sacred observances which offer so much more by comparison. What can compare to the opportunity of keeping those occasions which picture God's promise to return in power and glory, reconcile Himself to all mankind, and establish His beautiful and restful Kingdom upon this earth for a thousand years? And what can compare to the knowledge that God will make salvation open to millions and billions in a second resurrection to follow, when the Family of God will be expanded into an incredible spiritual army? These are all the things we will celebrate once again as we keep God's commanded fall observances, including the Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles, and the Last Great Day.

God has commanded that His people come before Him in the place He will choose to place His name for each of these sacred festival seasons (Deuteronomy 16:16). It is not a suggestion, but an edict from the God who reigns supreme over this entire universe. But only those who truly know their God and love Him will obey. "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). All others who claim love for God—but refuse to make Him a priority through simple obedience—are hypocrites, or else desperately deceived. If we are not incapacitated by poor health, what other "reason" would we have for not being at God's appointed feasts? There is no legitimate reason.

What is fascinating and incredibly ingenious is that God has designed His commands to require we learn to plan in advance. In order to keep His weekly Sabbath properly, we must make provision ahead of time on Friday—the preparation day. Likewise, in order to properly fulfill God's command to keep the annual festivals, we must prepare well in advance so that we can be in those appointed places at the required times.

By this time in September, all necessary plans should have been made for keeping the fall feasts. Second tithe should have been saved since the end of the last fall feast, and those funds should now be available to use. There is no other approved use for that tithe except keeping God's Holy Days. If we did not tithe as commanded, or if we "reallocated" that tithe to something else, we have failed to obey His simple command. In like manner, we should already have made necessary provision for accommodations, travel, time off from work, and all other details that are required. It takes sacrifice and intense personal commitment to keep God's Feasts. It takes planning and preparation. God intentionally designed it that way to help train us for the monumental offices of responsibility that await in His Kingdom.

Those born into the Family of God will be Kings and Priests, with critical responsibilities over significant jurisdictions on this earth. Those Magistrates will need impeccable administrative skills, and they will be experts in planning and organization. What better way to train those future Kings and Priests than to give them duties in this life which require the exercise of similar skills, although on a smaller plane? God never commands anything without a purpose. The effort required by each of us to obey His command to keep the feasts is helping develop that requisite personal discipline and long-range planning skill.

How well have we done in preparing for this year's fall festivals? If we have fulfilled our obligations, we will have the opportunity to experience truly rich and rewarding occasions. That is precisely what God wants for us. The Feasts should be a foretaste of the glorious future which awaits. May all of you be blessed with the fullness of joy and completeness from your determined preparation for these festival observances.

Monthly Letter

Since the Feast of Tabernacles falls too early in the month to allow enough time to prepare a *Monthly Letter*, there will be no letter for October.

Trip Schedule

October 7–14 (Feast of Tabernacles).....Townsend, Tennessee
October 15–18 (Feast of Tabernacles).....Newport, Oregon

Holy Days

Feast of Trumpets.....	Sabbath, September 27
Atonement.....	Monday, October 6
Feast of Tabernacles.....	October 11–17
Last Great Day.....	Sabbath, October 18

Note: Appointed lead men should make necessary arrangements for services in all areas.

New Hymnals

We are pleased to announce the new Church of God, The Eternal hymnals have arrived and will be available for use during the fall Holy Day season. This has been a major project for the church office staff over the last two years, but we are very excited about the final product and hope it will be a real blessing to our members around the world.

Supplies of hymnals are being sent to every area where our English-speaking congregations—small and large—meet regularly around the world. These shipments are being sent to the lead men in each area, and these men should maintain personal custody of the inventoried hymnals for benefit of the brethren who will use them in the future. These shipments should be received within the next two weeks.

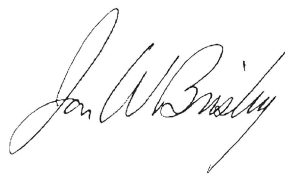
We also want to be sure that scattered brethren who do not have the opportunity to meet with others regularly throughout the year also have new hymnals for their personal use on the Sabbaths. There are two methods we will use to accomplish this. First, as we did when the last hymnals were published in 1993, we want to allow members the opportunity to purchase a personal copy of the hymnal for their private libraries. Secondly, for those who do not desire to own a private copy but desire a church-owned hymnal for use, we will issue those hymnals to individuals who request them.

Hymnals for private purchase or church-owned hymnals to be checked-out will be made available at the Feast of Tabernacles in Newport, Oregon and Townsend, Tennessee. For those wishing to purchase a hymnal, the cost will be \$12.00—slightly less than our direct cost to produce each book. Both the hymnals to be checked-out and those to be purchased will be made available at the registration desk at each U.S. Feast site. If you have any other questions about this process, please let us know by contacting the church office here in Eugene.

Tape Schedule

Tape #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-JB 54	08-14-03	09-06-03	How Does the Holy Spirit Inspire the Ministry vs. the Laity?
WSE-RC 22-1	08-14-03	09-13-03	Who Asked You? #1
WSE-RC 22-2	08-28-03	09-20-03	Who Asked You? #2
Holy Day Tapes	08-01-03	09-27-03	Trumpets A.M & P.M.
WSE-JB 55-1	08-28-03	10-04-03	Peace of Mind, Do You Have It? #1
No Tapes Sent For—(10-11-03 and 10-18-03)			Feast of Tabernacles/Last Great Day
WSE-JB 55-2	09-11-03	10-25-03	Peace of Mind, Do You Have It? #2
WSE-RC 21-1	09-11-03	11-01-03	The Significance of the Feast of Trumpets #1
WSE-RC-21-2	09-25-03	11-08-03	The Significance of the Feast of Trumpets #2
WSE-JB 55-3	09-25-03	11-15-03	Peace of Mind, Do You Have It? #3

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby