

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter July 2004

Dear Brethren:

As always, the opportunity to greet you again in this monthly mailing is an honor and a blessing. Your servants in the church office and this local congregation in Eugene, Oregon take this moment to express again our warm thoughts for all of you, and our hopes and prayers for your blessing and favor in God's merciful care.

Now that Pentecost has passed once again, we automatically turn our attention toward the next season of Holy Days before us in the fall, and anticipate those occasions which picture future events to complete the master plan of God on this earth. While the world lives from one empty carnal holiday to the next, we all have the incredible privilege to orient our hope in those commanded celebrations which have real significance and meaning. Our efforts here in the church office are already focused very much on preparation for those festivals. We appreciate your prayers very much for God's continuing favor to prosper us in that work to make ready all requirements for rich, orderly, and inspiring convocations before Him.

Ministerial Trip Report

God certainly blessed, once again, an aggressive excursion in late May and June to visit the brethren in Europe for Pentecost, and then our new brethren in Kenya thereafter. It was a joy to greet our dear friends in Switzerland and France once again, and have the chance to enjoy their company for the weekly Sabbath of May 29 in Lausanne, and then for Pentecost in Grenoble on May 31. This group has set an incredible example of faithfulness to God's Truth over all these years, and continued steadfast in those original teachings

delivered to His Church. In spite of the language barrier, with the blessing of capable French translation, we have never been impeded from enjoying the unity of the Spirit with those dear friends. Mr. Jean Aviolat continues the kind of wise and resolute leadership there which has assured such a sound and stable congregation since first becoming a remnant in the middle 1970s. Such consistency is never accidental. It is the fruit of God's Spirit guiding and preserving, and that Spirit is very evident in the warmth manifested by the brethren, matched with an absolute devotion to Christ's unchanging doctrine. Although this trip for Pentecost has been a tradition now for many years, what a blessing to be allowed to spend that precious time with these brethren again in this particular year. The brethren of continental Europe send their love to all of you, with their own thoughts and prayers for your well-being.

Immediately after Pentecost came the long trip on to east central Africa, and the opportunity to meet our new brethren in Kenya. Having communicated with Mr. Isaya Owak for the better part of three years by letter and e-mail before this visit, it was a real delight to meet him in person at the Nairobi airport early on June 2. Mr. Owak and many of the forty to fifty brethren who are part of our congregation there, have deep roots in the Worldwide Church of God. Some of them have been associated with God's truth since the time our parent body first began to establish churches in Kenya back in the 1970s. Even though they came to that knowledge after the apostasy was already well under way, they have experienced the same effects of splintering, chaos, and confusion which have prevailed in God's church in every country around the world.

These are not brethren from a third world country feigning acceptance of the teachings of Herbert Armstrong for the sake of gaining inroads with an American church who will support them financially. We have certainly seen a lot of that over the last thirty years, including contacts from many countries like Nigeria, India, and many others who were simply not legitimate. We have even had contacts of this sort from other individuals in Kenya in times past. But Isaya Owak has distinguished himself over several years as being very different, and it was a pleasure to meet him and many other brethren who share that same devotion to God's true revelation.

From the Bible studies and Sabbath service spent with them over the course of a week in several different areas in southwestern Kenya, it became very evident that these are called brethren of God's true church, as much as those legitimate children in every other part of the world. Like all of God's people, they are struggling with questions and issues of God's law and applying the principles of overcoming in their personal lives. But after much prayer and fasting, it was evident upon arrival that this was a legitimate group. It was therefore a great honor to be able to ordain Mr. Isaya Owak as an Elder—with full authority of the ministry—so that these brethren can now move forward with a dedicated shepherd who can help them grow.

Mr. Owak, although only thirty-seven years old, has been affiliated with God's church since he was fifteen, from the time an uncle first gave him some of Mr. Armstrong's booklets.

Speaking not only his local dialect of Luo, but also the national language of Kenya—Ki-Swahili—and likewise being fluent in English, he is in an ideal position to be able to bridge communication barriers for teaching God's Truth. Most importantly, he has the determination to want God's unchanging revelation, and to hold fast to those doctrines first given by Mr. Armstrong. Mr. Owak was led to us three years ago by his own search for a faithful remnant. He was especially distressed by the corruption of marriage manifested in the parent organization, and likewise in the major splinter groups extant in Kenya. He immediately found comfort in our strong defense of marriage as Mr. Armstrong originally taught, which led him next to learn from us about the other corrupted doctrines of the 1970s. Like many of you who did not really focus on Pentecost as an issue at first, once he saw the significance of that change in 1974 and its impact on the church, he very quickly found unity with us as a remnant.

Since that time, Mr. Owak has been helping other former members of the church come to see these principles, although he was not in a position to serve them as a minister. He has been translating our writings and sermon tapes into local dialects for the brethren, and doing what he can to support them in learning the truth. Now that he is ordained, he will be able to fully serve the needs of these brethren, with the authority to anoint for healing, baptize, counsel, and to preach.

Physically, the trip was demanding, covering many hundreds of miles over a variety of road conditions to visit scattered groups of brethren, spending many hours answering questions in Bible studies. But God blessed to sustain with good health the entire week, and provided His protection from every potential danger along the way. There is nothing like that personal contact to build strong bonds of friendship among those of like mind. We are so grateful to God for making this trip possible, and facilitating His work to establish this new congregation in Kenya.

Only time will tell what fruit will be borne among the brethren there. But the same is true of all of our congregations around the world. We have seen many dear ones come and go from our midst over past decades, even as the Scripture prophesied would occur in the end times. We can never take anything for granted. But what a joy to experience the unity of mind with others on opposite sides of the world who manifest that same interest and devotion to the truth of God. The ministry and brethren of Kenya likewise express their love and prayers for all of you who receive this letter, as brethren and kinsmen of the common faith.

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 15. Any who need assistance should notify us in ample time.

Death

We are sad to relay Mr. Charles Salmon, of Tamines, Belgium, died June 16 after a long illness. He was 71 years of age. Our condolences are extended to his wife, Suzanne.

Trip Schedule

July 17	Mansfield, Massachusetts
July 31	Baltimore, Maryland

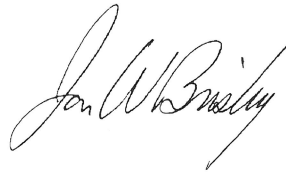
Feast of Tabernacles

We are now in the countdown prior to the Feast for 2004. To have a successful and rewarding Feast it is necessary to call upon God unitedly for such an occasion. By seeking the help of God, we can eliminate the active and disruptive presence of Satan and his demons. As a vicious adversary he can and will cause much trouble unless we earnestly seek God's help. Please continue to pray that God will grant us a peaceful and rewarding observance in all areas where He has set His name—the appointed areas. Your fervent prayers will make a very great difference.

Tape Schedule

Tape #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-RC 36-2	06-24-04	07-17-04	What Does It Mean to Walk in the Spirit? #2
WSE-RC 23-1	06-24-04	07-24-04	Hope: Purpose, Potential, and Power #1
WSE-JB 22-64-22D	07-08-04	07-31-04	Fund. of Belief: Church Government and Administration
WSE-JB 22-65-22E	07-08-04	08-07-04	Fund. of Belief: Church Government and Administration
WSE-RC 23-2	07-22-04	08-14-04	Hope: Purpose, Potential, and Power #2
WSE-RC 23-3	07-22-04	08-21-04	Hope: Purpose, Potential, and Power #3

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby