

# Church of God, The Eternal

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The late Raymond C. Cole  
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Offices in:  
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## Announcement Letter December 2004

Dear Brethren:

Greetings again from your devoted servants in Eugene, Oregon, who continue to thank God daily for your determined faithfulness to the revelation of Jesus Christ in these difficult days. You are all most precious because you have resisted so many temptations to turn from God's true doctrine, and you have held fast. May we never take that resolute consistency for granted, but ever re-devote ourselves to your spiritual support and encouragement.

Once again we are entering that time of year we probably all find most difficult. Everything around us is now focused on the Christmas season and those pagan practices which men value so highly. It is already impossible to escape being inundated with images and sounds of these pagan celebrations. How much we all long for those weeks to be finished. Even though the very roots of paganism truly surround us in this world on a daily basis—year-round—we seem to feel its assault on our senses more in December.

For many reasons it behooves us all to make special provision to grow closer to God at this time and be very wary of detrimental outside influences. God's children are under attack in many different ways right now. While the church as a whole is still being blessed with incredible blessings and peace, there are many of our individual members who are facing serious spiritual assaults. The ministry is in a position to assess these things since we are in contact with many of you by phone, letter, and e-mail. And based upon those contacts, it can be affirmed that the activity of Satan since the end of the Feast of Tabernacles has been high, attempting to stir up, discourage, or tempt our dear brethren into serious snares. The trials are truly varied, but the same stamp of influence pervades them all—the subtlety of a relentless archenemy.

Beloved brethren, please be very careful to weigh every thought and compare it to the image and character of our High Priest, Jesus Christ. The Spirit of God works within us to produce the fruits of outgoing concern, self-sacrifice, long-suffering, and the crucifixion of

carnal appetites. But when we see within ourselves the fruits—actual results—of anxiety and emotional distress, fear, anger, hard feelings toward others, feelings of not getting what we deserve (offense), despair, strong lustful pulls, and doubts about our spiritual calling, those are all evidence of the natural mind seeking dominance under the subtle influence of that one seeking our destruction. Do you recognize it when the wrong orientation creeps in and takes hold? Or do you assume that every thought you have "must" be coming from God? How easily any one of us can be deceived.

But friends, you know the Truth. You know the standard of behavior that God requires of all those who would have eternal life. Be willing—especially now—to evaluate every thought and impulse that might be trying to drive you, and ask with all sincerity, where does that thought or feeling originate? Is it really from God? Does it really reflect the example and character of God in all He has revealed to us? The wise will be on guard and be especially diligent to leave no opening for deception. It is not just at Passover season we should be evaluating ourselves. That self-examination and self-crucifixion is a year-long process we should never become weary to perform. It means life and death to every one of us. With the right orientation to these challenges, there is absolutely no reason for the failure of any. Our loving Heavenly Father has provided everything we need to be successful. As the Apostle Paul confidently asserted, ". . . . If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31).

## **Blessings of Brethren**

[Omitted for confidentiality]

## **Office**

The cutoff date for 2004 tithes will be December 31, 2004. Please keep this in mind for those contributions you wish to have included in your 2004 statement. Remember, checks and money orders must be dated and envelopes postmarked in 2004.

## **New Seven-year Cycle Report**

We are happy to announce a new service available from the church office. Many in past years have asked for help in calculating or verifying their correct seven-year cycles, for purposes of determining personal third tithe years, sixth years, and land sabbath years. We have just completed a computer programming project to easily calculate and print a customized report for each member, based upon date of baptism. This program was designed to reflect the administrative decisions of Mr. Herbert Armstrong in making these calculations, and can now be done quickly and easily, no matter how many years ago someone was baptized.

Anyone who would like to receive a personalized "Seven-year Cycle of Years" report need only contact the church office and provide the date of baptism. This is all that is needed. Even if you do not remember the specific date, you must at least be able to tell us which year, and whether it was before or after Passover of that year. With this information we will still be able to provide an accurate report. Remember that a woman married to a baptized husband (whether he is still living or not) will follow the husband's date of baptism. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office for clarification. We hope this new service will be valuable to all of you.

## **Trip Schedule**

December 18	Don Carlos, Mindanao, Philippines
December 25	Burnie, Tasmania, Australia
February 5	Bend, Texas

## **Death**


It is with sadness that we announce the death of Mr. Chester Willocks of Maryville, Tennessee. Mr. Willocks was eighty-eight years of age at his death November 18. We offer our condolences to his family and friends.

## Tape Schedule

<u>Tape #</u>	<u>Mailed</u>	<u>Played</u>	<u>Title</u>
WSE-JB 22-69-22I	11-11-04	12-04-04	Fundamentals of Belief: Church Government
WSP-RC 18-3	11-11-04	12-11-04	Do You Know God's Will? #3
WSE-JB 22-70-22J	11-24-04	12-18-04	Fundamentals of Belief: Church Government
WSP-RC 18-4	11-24-04	12-25-04	Do You Know God's Will? #4
WSE-JB 22-71-22K	12-09-04	01-01-05	Fundamentals of Belief: Church Government
WSE-RC-2	12-09-04	01-08-05	The Hope of the Resurrection
WSE-JB 22-72-22L	12-23-04	01-15-05	Fundamentals of Belief: Church Government

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In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby