

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter February 2005

Dear Brethren:

It is a real pleasure to address all of you—the called children of God—once again in this monthly mailing. We pray God is keeping you in His loving care, and that you are staying strong spiritually in spite of the many physical trials allowed for our benefit. Your devoted servants here in Eugene, Oregon, express heartfelt love and appreciation for you, and we keep you very much in mind as we continue to work to serve this scattered body around the world. Your devotion to put God first—no matter what—is an inspiration that warms the heart. May we continue together in real unity of mind through Jesus Christ, no matter what is required of us before that great and terrible Day of the Lord.

Every year seems to bring new surprises we could never have predicted. The results of that massive tsunami which struck Southeast Asia in late December reminds us of the fragility of human life, and the vulnerability of mankind to incredible forces beyond his control. No matter how sophisticated and advanced he becomes, he is still subject to significant powers beyond him. It is interesting how such natural disasters seem to cause men to stop and reflect about their mortality, and question anew the concept of God. Is there really an intelligent and purposeful higher power in control of our existence, or are we simply hapless accidents of nature being buffeted by random environmental forces? Those who believe in a loving Creator—but without understanding the true will and purpose of that God—especially seem to have their faith assaulted when such terrible things occur. If there really is a God who loves us, why does He allow such evil to befall the weak and helpless? Without the revelation of the true God and His perfect plan for the salvation of mankind, they will continue to wander in darkness and confusion. But those of you who have been given the privilege of that calling, how blessed are you above all who live on this earth. We understand these events are part of God's plan to humble humanity and eventually bring them into submission so they can be taught the real way of happiness and peace. They will all

have that opportunity one day not far removed. Even the worst suffering in this present world is insignificant compared to the glory they will be offered for all eternity.

But for now, man is still seeking to secure happiness, peace, and that Utopian society on his own terms, and through his own means. He does not want to do it God's way. He thinks he can solve his own problems without God. That is what he has been doing for nearly six thousand years. And thus far, the results have always been the same. When will he finally learn?

When President George W. Bush was sworn in for a second term as President of the United States just a few days ago, he made this statement in his Inaugural Address:

So it is the policy of the United States to seek and support the growth of democratic movements and institutions in every nation and culture, with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world.

Once again, we find the idealistic goals of world peace proclaimed by those with hope of a solution to the misery of mankind. President Bush sees freedom and democratic institutions as the tonic for man's ills. But little does he or our other world leaders know that the only real solution will be found in the iron rule of Jesus Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. It will be anything but a democratic society. Yet, it will be the real and lasting solution that will finally allow man to come out from under the curses he has borne for so long.

If we keep these things in mind as we see greater and greater curses poured out upon this earth in years to come, we do not have to be among those who have their faith in a loving and merciful God diminished.

Sermons on Compact Disc (CD)

The church office is pleased to announce we will soon be ready to offer our weekly sermon programs on CD, as well as on cassette tape. This will mark the beginning of an important new phase in our use of digital technology. It has taken much time, energy, and money to get to this stage, and we hope it will be a valuable new service for our scattered members around the world. Not only will the audio quality be much better on CD, but it will also be cheaper in the long run for the church to produce and mail CDs instead of cassettes.

Knowing there will likely be some who will not be as comfortable with the newer technology, we are committed to continuing to provide cassette tapes to those who prefer

them, and for as long as they choose. However, we are hopeful that many (most over time) will choose to begin receiving sermons by CD instead of cassette. We believe this will be a tremendous benefit, not only to all of you, but also to the church.

For those of you who would like to be among the first to receive CDs when we are finally ready to mail the first batch, we are requesting that you notify the church office right away, so we can add you to the new mailing list. We are providing a special form with this letter to make it easy for you to send us your request.

Special note: In order to play our sermon CDs, you *must* have an MP3 compatible player. Please do not assume that just because you have a CD player, you can automatically play our sermons. We have chosen to use a recording format called MP3 to produce our CD programs, and older CD players *will not* work with it. Many newer home and car CD players will play MP3 audio, but if so, they will list "MP3" somewhere on the player. Please do not sign up for audio CD sermons if you have not *absolutely verified* you have an MP3 compatible player. Once we begin sending you CDs, you will no longer receive cassettes, so we do not want you to be left unable to listen to the sermon messages.

What about the sermon library available for special orders? We are only archiving our most recent sermons digitally at this time, and it will take a long time before we can convert our massive sermon library from analog (cassette) to digital media. Keep in mind, we have hundreds of sermons from the last thirty years with which to deal. Therefore, even if you begin receiving new sermons by CD, any individual requests for old sermons will still come on cassette. If you have any questions concerning this new program, please feel free to contact us in the church office.

Trip Schedule

March 19	Knoxville, Tennessee
April 22, 23, 24	Albertinia, South Africa
April 30	Migori, Kenya

Tape Schedule

Tape #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSP-JB 59	01-06-05	01-29-05	What Is the House of God?
WSE-JB 65	01-06-05	02-05-05	What Is Required to Restore God's Church?
WSE-RC I-1	01-20-05	02-12-05	The Three Minds #1
WSE-JB 68	01-20-05	02-19-05	I Am Not a Missionary
WSE-JB 70	02-03-05	02-26-05	I Could Be Happier if . . .
WSE-RC I-2	02-03-05	03-05-05	The Three Minds #2
WSE-RC I-3	02-17-05	03-12-05	The Three Minds #3

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby