

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter August 2005

Dear Brethren:

Greetings once again from all of your devoted servants in Eugene, Oregon, who think of you and keep you in our daily prayers. The opportunity to communicate each month through this *Announcement Letter* with the dear children God has preserved in these difficult days is a blessing indeed. May God continue to bless you with those things that are most important—that grounding in Truth to stand fast and face whatever the future may require of us.

Over the last several months, we have begun to weigh potential decisions about our physical facilities here in Eugene with the church office. We have been in our current office space on Pearl Street for seven years, and it has certainly been a blessing. But we are very short on space and having increasing difficulty in making room for new services and equipment needed to serve our far-flung members. More than a year ago we began renting a separate storage facility in town to provide additional square footage. But the one thing we still do not have space for is Mr. Raymond Cole's library of approximately seven thousand books. Since his death almost four years ago, Mrs. Cole has been gracious enough to allow us to continue keeping that library in her home. But the day will come in the future when we will have to provide a separate place to house that library. There is no possible way to do that in our current facilities.

With these things in mind, we began to consider potential options for the future, and ask God for His guidance. If a change of some kind will be needed, one of the options we have been considering is buying a property rather than continuing to lease. God has blessed us with the resources to be able to do that if it is His will. If this is something He will bless, we would like to get a facility that is large enough not only for our church office space, but also for a meeting hall for the Eugene congregational Sabbath services. We have been renting the Santa Clara Grange hall near Eugene for weekly and annual Sabbath services for over thirty years. That has become a real tradition. And if it is God's will for us to continue using that rented facility, we will certainly do so. But there would be many benefits to having our own meeting hall. We would no longer have to set up and take down chairs and

equipment every Sabbath day, and we would be able to consider more professional recording options for sermons if we had a permanent facility which did not have to be moved constantly.

Not wanting in any way to go in a direction God did not intend for us, a memorandum was sent to all of the U.S. ministers, deacons, and members of the Board of Advisors, soliciting input on these options. "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety" (Proverbs 11:14). All of those men who responded felt that it would be a good decision for us to buy a facility for the church headquarters if God opens that door. That unanimous response has certainly given us confidence in pursuing that possibility.

Even so, we intend to let God lead. The worst possible action would be to force our own will and become accountable for the misuse of God's resources. We never want to act without His express permission and blessing. Therefore we still intend to walk slowly and judiciously in considering any of these options for the future. If it is God's will, He will provide an open door and do it in a manner that gives us confidence to act. If not, He will show us exactly what alternative path He does intend for us to walk. How wonderful it is to know we have a Heavenly Father who is close at hand to lead us.

There was one piece of property we were very interested in which seemed to offer much potential. However, the owners did not accept our offer. They feel they can get a better deal than what we were willing to pay. This may be God's answer that it is not the place He has in mind for us. Or it could be only that the timing is not right. The building is vacant right now, and the owners are losing money every month they do not have a contract. It is still possible our offer will look more attractive to them if they do not find a better deal in coming months. We will continue watching all these things and wait for God's answers.

In the meantime, we intend to be patient. Your prayers to ask God to show us His perfect will would also be greatly appreciated. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16).

Feast of Tabernacles

We are now in the countdown prior to the Feast. 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.

Excess Second Tithe

This is just a 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 September 1. Any who need assistance should notify us in ample time.

Camp Tejas

We would like to express a special thank you to Mr. David Brandenburg, Mrs. Jackie Wakefield, and their volunteer assistants, Mr. Duane Garland, and Miss Rebecca Engel, for their personal sacrifice to make Camp Tejas a success again this year. We also wish to thank Mr-s. Richard Litz, Mr-s. Robert Litz, and Mr-s. Michael Litz for their willingness and extraordinary sacrifice of facilities, labor, and time spent supporting the camp program. From all accounts, the teens had a wonderful ten-day summer camp experience, made possible by much hard work of the organizing staff.

It is to those volunteer church members who have sacrificed so much that we all owe a debt of gratitude. We must never take for granted that there will be another camp opportunity next year. It is all according to the willingness of Mr. David Brandenburg and Mrs. Jackie Wakefield as the sponsors, organizers, and driving force behind the project. The church will certainly continue to support them as the principals as long as they choose to continue that volunteer service.

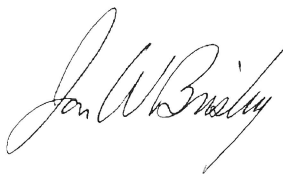
Trip Schedule

August 13	Baltimore, Maryland
August 20	Mansfield, Massachusetts

Tape Schedule

Tape #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-RC CL 2-25	07-14-05	08-06-05	Joy #5
WSE-JB 22-80-23H	07-14-05	08-13-05	Fund. of Belief #23H, Prophecy
WSE-RC CL 2-26	07-28-05	08-20-05	Joy #6
WSE-JB 22-81-23I	07-28-05	08-27-05	Fund. of Belief #23I, Prophecy
WSE-RC CL 2-27	08-11-05	09-03-05	Joy #7
WSE-JB 22-82-23J	08-11-05	09-10-05	Fund. of Belief #23J, Prophecy
WSE-JB 22-83-23K	08-25-05	09-17-05	Fund. of Belief #23K, Prophecy

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby