

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter September 2005

Dear Brethren:

With thankfulness and appreciation to God, we greet His faithful children once again this month with affection and warm personal regard. It is a continuing pleasure to have the chance to spend our energies in taking care of this remnant body and providing that spiritual support network for God's people scattered around the world.

Thus far, God has continued to grant us mercy and favor to continue that work of service, and we do not intend to take His benevolence for granted. But the day will surely come when we will be prevented from carrying on normally in serving you. God's description of events to occur before the return of Christ make it plain that things will be anything but normal. This earth will be plunged into a time like has never existed nor will ever exist again (Matthew 24:21–22). Many more of us may find ourselves isolated and without the support of weekly fellowship, let alone sermons and letters by mail. How will each of us fare in those circumstances?

Do we have the spiritual fortitude to stand on our own and hold fast to the Truth, if that is what is required of us? Or are we only "strong" when we have others to lean upon? It is important to make ourselves available as much as possible to help each other.

Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend
(Proverbs 27:17).

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching (Hebrews 10:24–25).

We all benefit from the encouragement of others who share our convictions in God's Truth. It is so uplifting to be able to spend time with others who manifest the fruits of God's Holy Spirit. It makes us want to do better and renew our personal commitment to seek God more diligently.

But part of the very test God may likely require of those in this final generation is to be able to stand firm when there are no others (humanly) to support us. Do we have the depth of love for God's revealed doctrines to hold fast, no matter what? Or is there a circumstance that would send our solidarity with Him into a tailspin? It is important to keep that in mind and work diligently now to prepare ourselves for the future.

Mr. Raymond Cole used to say that if no one else intended to hold fast to those doctrines first preached by Mr. Armstrong, it would not change his orientation one iota. He knew what he had accepted as Truth, and he did not intend to change, no matter what. Even if he had to stand absolutely alone, he would do it. And by the challenges he faced over the years, he seemed to prove he was absolutely serious about that. I wonder if our conviction is as strong? Do we know what that Truth is—and know that we know it—to such an extent that we will allow no circumstance or disappointment in this life to steal it away from us? Or are we really only "weak sisters" who are here for the time being, but without the fortitude to withstand the spiritual assaults that await this last generation of God's firstfruits?

Loneliness can be a serious trial, and is already one that is testing a number of our members worldwide. We do not know why, but for reasons of His own choosing, God has preserved one here and one there around the world. Those who have others of like mind with whom to meet and fellowship are most blessed. But many are having to live day by day without that kind of close personal support network. But it is likely they are only getting an advanced taste of that which may befall all of us, sooner or later. It is wise of us to be preparing now for the potential requirement of standing alone to uphold the Truth. Can you do it? If we are using our time wisely, we can:

Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is (Ephesians 5:14–17).

May God give us the compassion to reach out and help our isolated brethren as much as possible at this time, and to prepare ourselves for the time when we may all have to stand alone, taking comfort only in our fellowship with Jesus Christ.

Prayer Request

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Births

Mr-s. Isaya Owak of Suna, Kenya, would like everyone to know of the birth of their son, Leon Whitaker. Leon was born Saturday, July 30. Mother and son are doing fine.

Mr-s. Roy Pell of Phoenix, Arizona, would like to announce the arrival of their son, Jordan Rylee, born Sunday, August 7. Jordan was 20½ inches long and weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces at birth. They are all doing fine.

Office

Miss Rebecca Engel was recently employed to complement the office staff in the taping department. You may send any tape department inquiries or requests directly to Rebecca if you wish. Her office email address is: rnengel@cogeternal.org.

We will have laminated Holy Day cards available at both Feast sites this year. They are wallet size and show dates for each year's Holy Days through 2014. You can pick one up at the Feast of Tabernacles registration table.

Returning Used Cassette Tapes

Those driving to the Feast may bring cassette tapes that are no longer being used. We will once again transport them back to Eugene from the Feast sites. In Townsend, Tennessee, Mr. Bill McCammon will oversee collecting and boxing tapes for shipment. Duplication of Feast sermon tapes requires an enormous number of new cassettes, and these returned tapes help to offset the cost. Remember, before returning the tapes, look on the side of the tapes for marks. If there are two marks (or more) on the tape, you may discard them. For quality control, they can no longer be used by the office.

Holy Days

Feast of Trumpets Tuesday, October 4
Day of Atonement Thursday, October 13
Feast of Tabernacles October 18–October 24
Last Great Day October 25

Trip Schedule

October 4 (Feast of Trumpets) Modesto, California
October 15–20 (Feast of Tabernacles) Townsend, Tennessee
October 21–25 (Feast of Tabernacles) Newport, Oregon

Tape Schedule

Tape #	Mailed	Played	Title
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
CL 2-28	08-25-05	09-24-05	Joy #8
WSI-RWL 2	09-08-05	10-01-05	Obedience to Authority
WSE-JB 22-84-23L	09-08-05	10-08-05	Fund. of Belief #23L, Prophecy
WSE-RC 58	09-22-05	10-15-05	Why Should There Be Rejoicing on the Holy Days?

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby