

# Church of God, The Eternal

P. O. Box 775  
Eugene, Oregon 97440  
[www.cogeternal.org](http://www.cogeternal.org)

The late Raymond C. Cole  
Founding Pastor  
Jon W. Brisby  
Pastor, Director

Offices in  
United States  
Philippines  
Switzerland

## Announcement Letter October 2005

Dear Brethren:

By the time most of you receive this issue of the *Announcement Letter*, the Feast of Tabernacles will be nearly upon us. What a glorious time of year, as the excitement builds toward that opportunity to come into God's presence and obey His holy edict, and to do so along with so many others of like mind whom we do not get to see throughout the year. Is there any doubt that God's commanded Holy Days have vastly more value and enjoyment than all of man's holidays rolled into one? What an absolute thrill to have the chance to participate in these occasions which picture our hope for the coming Kingdom of God and that beautiful world tomorrow.

If you will recall, right after last year's Feast—in the November 2004 issue of this letter—we admonished everyone to start planning immediately to fulfill next year's obligation to appear at those appointed places, including the saving of second tithe for the Feast of Tabernacles. God designed these commands to require planning and effort on the part of His people. Those who have put God first and made proper priorities will soon reap the blessings of those sacrifices. The sign between God and His people is the keeping of weekly and annual Sabbaths. These occasions can never be counted as optional, not if we really want to receive the reward of salvation God is offering.

As always, there will be some of our beloved brethren who are too weak—physically—to make the required long journey to one of those appointed places, although they would love to be with God's people during these joyous times. God knows the hearts and minds of each one involved. He knows those cases that involve severe disability which absolutely precludes travel, and He will certainly distinguish those from ones who are simply afraid or have lacked preparation. All of these called ones who will be absent—for whatever reason—will be dearly missed, and will be in our thoughts and prayers. But for those whom God will consider "absent without excuse," there may still be time—although ever fleeting—to reset your priorities so that you will not fall under a heavy curse.

As time draws closer to the return of Jesus Christ, it is going to get progressively harder for God's children to obey. If it seems hard now, it will only get more difficult in times to come. It is imperative that we begin to learn now to make whatever sacrifices necessary to put God first. Just an example for consideration: If you became convinced it was time to flee to a place of safety (however God chose to make that known), would you be just as confident God would excuse you for a good reason? Or would those former limitations suddenly seem to disappear? If so, why? Why would one unable to travel to attend the Feast be able to travel to escape tribulation? It all really hinges on how important we deem God's commands of assembly. God will honor those who truly view His ordinances as the most important priority in life. What if God's instruction to flee came to those assembled during a commanded festival? Where would that leave those who would not attend?

This is a time when Satan is extremely active. Many of God's people are facing serious threats that are assaulting their confidence and spiritual conviction. It is being manifested in many different ways—in very diverse areas of life, one from another—but the common denominator is clear. Dear brethren, Satan hates God's Holy Days and what they picture. He does not want us to come out of his world in keeping the Feast of Tabernacles. He does not want us to set aside the cares of this life and focus on the joy of Jesus Christ's coming Kingdom, which is set to replace his own. If he can discourage us from keeping the Feast properly, he can prevent us from being spiritually renewed with encouragement and strength to keep fighting into the next year. The burdens of our daily lives carry so much stress, it is very easy to wear down and lose focus on those things that are most important. Are not God's fall Holy Days a time to recharge our batteries and receive a short reprieve from this world? Do we not view our circumstances with more spiritual clarity after having kept the Feast with God's people and receiving that meat in due season? Does it not give us renewed energy and determination to keep fighting to put on more of God's Spirit? So when we are not able to attend, it makes us more vulnerable by far to the attacks of our adversary. As time draws closer to the very end, we need that rejuvenating effect of God's Feasts more than ever. Is that not why God admonished His people to put priority on those convocations *even more so* as this age draws to a close?

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) 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 10:23–25).

Another opportunity to fulfill that very command is now upon us. May we all join together in lifting our voices to God in prayer, asking for His divine protection to bless our

assemblies around the world in His name. Let us never forget that we need His concerted intervention to safeguard us, otherwise we are left to the mercy of the god of this world. But we have confidence that God will indeed bless those who have the faith to step out and make those journeys to be in those appointed places of worship. If we can subjugate our carnal fears and worldly distractions, we can be assured of that divine help we need in these perilous times. May God grant every one of you His mercy and blessings in your journey to fulfill that glorious command to keep the Feast.

## **Birth**

Mr-s. Wayne (Brandi) Largent of Dothan, Alabama, would like to announce the birth of their son, Jon Allen. Jon was born May 6, weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces, and was 19½ inches long. They are all doing fine.

## **Death**

We are saddened to report the death of eighteen-year-old Paul Knott, of Columbia Falls, Montana—the youngest son of Jim and Reta Knott—in a tragic vehicular accident, which occurred on September 21. This is a devastating loss, and Jim and Reta wish to thank the brethren for the outpouring of love and comfort they have received from so many. Our thoughts and prayers continue for the entire family at this very difficult time.

## **Wedding**

It is our pleasure to announce the marriage of Mrs. Lydia Bower of Albertinia, South Africa, to Mr. John Dewey, formerly of Littleton, Massachusetts. They were married September 26 in Oudtshoorn, South Africa. We wish them rich and abundant blessings as they start their life together.

## **Prayer Requests**

[Omitted for confidentiality]

## **Feast of Tabernacles**

As most members know, I will be splitting my time between the Townsend and Newport Feast sites. During the Feast several men will carry out administrative duties in my absence. In Townsend, Mr. Leon Whitaker will be in charge of the spiritual needs of the congregation—counseling, anointing, etc. Mr. Bill McCammon will be in charge of the physical operations of the Feast. In Newport, Mr. John Byrd will be in charge of the spiritual needs and Mr. Delmer Marsh will be in charge of the physical operations. Please be assured these men, and all the elders and deacons in each site, are very willing to help and serve you in any way during the Feast. Feel free to contact them should a need arise.

## **Tape Department**

In an effort to save shipping costs for those who return their tapes by mail, it is suggested that before returning the tapes, look on the side of the tapes for marks. If there are two marks (or more) on the tape, it has been used and erased at least two times. For a good quality recording a tape cannot be reused more than two times. When these tapes come back to the office they are discarded. So, if you receive any tapes that have two marks, there is no need to return them. Either discard them or keep them for your personal use. Hopefully this will save you money in the return of tapes. Also, reusable tapes (those without two marks) may be brought to the Feast sites for transport back to Eugene.

## **Holy Days**

Day of Atonement . . . . . Thursday, October 13

Feast of Tabernacles . . . . . October 18–October 24

Last Great Day . . . . . October 25

## **Trip Schedule**

October 15–20 (Feast of Tabernacles)    Townsend, Tennessee

October 21–25 (Feast of Tabernacles)    Newport, Oregon

## Tape Schedule

<u>Tape #</u>	<u>Mailed</u>	<u>Played</u>	<u>Title</u>
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?
WSE-JB 22-85-23M	09-22-05	10-29-05	Fund. of Belief #23M, Prophecy
WSP-RC 13	10-12-05	11-05-05	What Is Our Principal Objective in Life?
WSE-JB 22-86-23N	10-12-05	11-12-05	Fund. of Belief #23N, Prophecy

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby