

Church of God, The Eternal

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The late Raymond C. Cole
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Announcement Letter December 2005

Dear Brethren:

It is a sincere pleasure to address all of you in another issue of this monthly mailing. No matter how far away we may live from each other upon this earth, you are all very close in our thoughts and prayers. Thank God that He has preserved faithful children around the globe in these difficult days. The times are dark indeed, as real truth is being rejected more and more. How much more relevant is God's prophecy concerning these very last days than ever before:

Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers. And the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city. Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah (Isaiah 1:7–9).

Those of you who have refused to depart from the faith once delivered—that Way of Life revealed by Jesus Christ through a last-day servant—are part of that very small remnant which is still manifesting a glimmer of light in a very dark world. Because you are so dear in the eyes of God, we will continue to serve you and encourage you, that you may hold fast, no matter what may be required of us in coming days.

One of many examples of the perversions of Satan's world is found in music. One of the best ways to track the consistent degradation of society over time is to monitor the evolution of its musical tastes. What we have seen transpire within the world of music during the last century tracks perfectly with the plummeting state of our societies' morality. Man's sins are rapidly coming to the full. And his descent into greater depths of depravity is manifested likewise in his choice of music. Today, young people are growing up being inundated with "music" that is actually an assault upon their minds—doing great harm—whether they know it or not. What is often called music today meets none of the

standards God established in this universe to be a blessing to the human mind. Instead, man has adopted more and more perverse influences that are literally like a poison to his body and mind. And anyone who believes the music he listens to has no real effect on his thinking and mental well-being is either deceived or else very foolish.

Parents should be very selective in what they allow their children to listen to. Taste for music is learned and acquired as much as is our taste for food. Children learn to like what they are fed at a young age. Each one will—by nature—eschew good food if given the chance, because carnal human beings are rebellious to God's way. If children are taught to eat wholesome food, they will acquire a taste for it. But feed a child junk food and he will crave it, rejecting that which God intended to be eaten in favor of that which is perverted. Likewise, fill a child's mind with perverted music and he will prefer it to the music God intended to be healthful and uplifting.

Do not assume that whatever music you like most today is automatically OK, just because it appeals to you. If we accept that the carnal mind is enmity against God (Romans 8:7), then none of us can afford to defend our natural rebellion. In the same way many of us are still having to fight the lust for wrong food, so do many of us need to fight the lust for wrong music. Do not underestimate the importance of this spiritual principle.

With that in mind, one of the blessings of God's teaching through the ministry of Mr. Herbert Armstrong was the knowledge of good music vs. corrupt music. These principles are just as much a part of the faith once delivered as any other doctrines we were taught. A variety of music can certainly be acceptable for different listening occasions, but one must be very selective. Even as this ministry will never tell you it is OK to eat white bread and drink soda pop, neither will we tell you it is OK to listen to music which violates cardinal principles laid down by God (including the attributes of the music itself, as well as the lyrics). We must each decide with what we will choose to fill our minds and bodies. Some have secretly mocked the admonition of this ministry to give up eating corrupt food. Their carnal tastes have been so perverted, they seek to justify their deadly addictions rather than change them. Likewise, it is certain that some may scoff at this admonition concerning music. But brethren, if so, know that you do so at your own risk before God. There are *always* curses that result from breaking God's laws.

When the church began to depart from major revealed doctrine in the early 1970s, there was likewise a change in orientation toward music. Worldly, "popular style" music began to be incorporated into church services rather than the sacred, reverential music Mr. Armstrong had always insisted upon before. Was that merely a coincidence, or is there a connection between the human mind's tendency to pervert major doctrine and the music chosen for worship of God? As the world's steady moral decline is reflected in its choice of music, so is the church's moral state reflected in part by its choice of music.

Thankfully, Mr. Raymond Cole continued Mr. Armstrong's original example of choosing appropriate music for our special music offerings before God. This remnant body has been blessed with that example now for the last thirty years. We intend to continue to set the proper example for godly, sacred music in our worship services. We do not intend to depart from that divinely-revealed standard to satiate the carnal appetites of human beings who have been influenced by Satan's world.

This is one reason we made available—to those who attended the Feast of Tabernacles in the United States this year—sets of CD recordings of the Holy Day cantatas. For those who are not aware of the history of this music, years ago Mr. Raymond Cole commissioned Mr. George King to compose sacred music to portray the meaning of God's annual Holy Days. To date, five of seven have been completed. This includes the *Cantata for Passover*, *Cantata for Pentecost*, *Cantata for The Feast of Trumpets*, *Cantata for The Day of Atonement*, and *Cantata for The Feast of Tabernacles*. Each of these five cantatas is centered upon texts from the Holy Scriptures, selected by Mr. Cole to capture the spiritual meaning of each Holy Day. They were written in the Baroque style of classical music, one style confirmed by Mr. Armstrong as meeting God-ordained standards.

This style of music may be considered "heavy" by those not trained to appreciate quality music. But again, we should never use our own natural tastes as the standard for what God considers "good." This author readily admits that as a young man first joining this fellowship, that music was not very appealing. But that was a problem with the perverted hearing of the listener, not the quality and value of the music. Since then, this author has learned to love the cantatas, and acknowledges them as classic compositions inspired by God. For those willing to deprogram themselves from the pollutions of this world, these original compositions—commissioned and copyrighted by Church of God, The Eternal—can become a real blessing. There is nothing more fitting to play at the beginning of an annual Sabbath than a cantata setting the meaning of that High Day to music.

For that reason, we have made the decision to pick up the project and complete the final two cantatas, including the *Cantata for the Feast of Unleavened Bread*, and the *Cantata for the Last Great Day*. Mr. George King has graciously agreed to write these major works on behalf of the church, and again help us produce them with professional musicians, just as we did with the previous five. This is a laborious project requiring much effort. We are talking about a major endeavor that will take the better part of a year for each work.

The most important requirement for this project to be successful is to ask God to inspire the writing. Without the divine inspiration of God, there is no value in the final product. In these newly-commissioned musical works, we want to produce something to match the quality of the first five, completing the Holy Day picture—in music—of God's

master plan for man's salvation. For that reason, we want to ask each of you to please beseech God to inspire Mr. King as he begins to work on the *Cantata for The Feast of Unleavened Bread*. God blessing it, we hope this new work may be made available for distribution on CD within a year's time.

We will soon begin to offer sets of the existing five cantatas for order from our church website—free of charge to the public—just as we have offered them to our own members all along. Although we own and control legal rights to those musical compositions, as is true of our copyrighted articles, our purpose is to share that material with anyone whom God sends to us, who values the spiritual principles contained therein. These original musical compositions are unique among those groups who came out of our parent organization. No one else has produced music of this type and quality to magnify the Truth of God. Many are not aware it exists, and that is something we hope may change.

Other significant and major works written by Mr. King under the auspices of Church of God, The Eternal over several decades include *The Song of Moses*, and *Hearken Unto Me O House of Jacob*, also arranged in cantata format. If you do not have copies of some of these musical works and would like to receive them, please contact the church office and we will be happy to send them to you.

Birth

Mr-s. Andre van der Bank of Trichardtsdal, South Africa, are pleased to announce the birth of their baby boy, Dawid. He was born September 18 and weighed seven pounds, seven ounces, the fourth son for Mr-s. van der Bank. Mother and baby are doing well.

Photos

Each year many photos are taken at the Feast of Tabernacles. We have tried to include copies of some of the photos in church photo albums which we display each year during the Feast. We would like to have pictures each year of everyone who attends at the various sites around the world. If you have pictures you would like to include from this past Feast, please send them to the office. We will not be able to use all pictures sent, but will try to make sure everyone is included if possible.

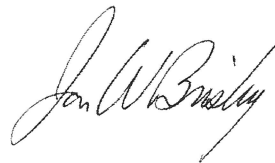
Trip Schedule

February 11 Knoxville, Tennessee

Tape Schedule

Tape #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-RC 25-1	11-10-05	12-10-05	Exploitation of Social Issues/Godly Work Ethic #1
WSE-JB 79	11-23-05	12-17-05	The Power of Prayer?
WSE-RC 25-2	11-23-05	12-24-05	Exploitation of Social Issues/Godly Work Ethic #2
WSE-JB 80-1	12-08-05	12-31-05	A Survey of the Book of Job #1
WSE-RC 25-3	12-08-05	01-07-06	Exploitation of Social Issues/Godly Work Ethic #3
WSE-RC 25-4	12-22-05	01-14-06	Exploitation of Social Issues/Godly Work Ethic #4

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby