

Church of God, The Eternal

P. O. Box 775
Eugene, Oregon 97440
www.cogeternal.org

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

Offices in: United States
Philippines
Switzerland
Kenya

Announcement Letter December 2006

Dear Brethren:

November is already over, and here we are in December, or the last part of Kislev by God's calendar. We greet you—the faithful children of God—and express once again our love and devotion to serve all of you who acknowledge the true God and seek to uphold His ways in your lives. It is always an honor to help those who have a sincere desire to obey God and to please Him.

It is not easy for any of us to practice what we know is right. As human beings, we are all plagued with a carnal orientation that fights and resists the right way. How easily we can become so disgusted with our failures that we simply want to give up. But giving in to sin will never make us happier in the end. Sin always brings curses, including heartache, sorrow, emptiness, and guilt before it is over. For those of us who have been called miraculously to that knowledge of Truth, how can we run from it? Where can we go to escape the hand of God? It is impossible. And denying that we are called will not make it true, if we are only kidding ourselves. Instead, no matter how difficult it is to consider the daunting task of crucifying the carnal pulls of the flesh and walking in the footsteps of Jesus Christ, that path is so much less burdensome than running from God. No one ever succeeded in running from God without making himself extremely sorry for the attempt (remember Jonah).

When we stop to appreciate the real value of God's laws and how perfect they are for the good of mankind, we can begin to view our calling as an incredible blessing, rather than something negative and burdensome. Coming to love and appreciate the work of God more is the process of maturing spiritually. Yes, it is hard to maintain the zeal to overcome and fight sin. It is so easy to get worn down as time goes on, especially living in this increasingly abominable world. There are so many pulls seeking to destroy us. Our adversary is urgent to try and get us to turn in mind and body to the "delicacies" of Egypt and Babylon. Those without appreciation for their calling will give in and let the flow of carnality take them away. The wise, on the other hand, will recognize the source of that mental pull and continue to resist it. One of the greatest tests we all must pass is to endure to the end without becoming weary in well-doing. May God grant every one of you the power to prevail.

Spiritual Principle—Parental Guidance

We all should understand the obligation of parents to train and guide children as a God-ordained responsibility. That loving guidance, measured with wisdom, is what provides the means to nurture our children to learn positive habits and prepare them to become responsible and successful adults. The parent who smothers a child and refuses to allow him to stretch, learn new things, and develop greater accomplishments over time—no matter how well-meaning—will generate eventually the curse of that mistake. That child will likely become an "adult" without the tools needed to make good personal choices, and will resent a parent who retarded opportunity to learn and grow. How many children have chafed under the weight of overbearing parents who have actually driven their children to "escape" from them as soon as feasible, only to run headlong into greater trouble in the world.

But likewise, the parent who fails to properly guide and direct a child—but allows him to grow up like an undisciplined weed—is begging to ruin that child's future. It takes a wise and balanced approach to know how to guide without stifling development. That is a gift that God will give to any of you who ask of Him.

Of particular need is to warn all of you parents to be very careful about the sources of influence you allow for your growing children. It is especially difficult today because of the world's philosophy of granting children the "right" to make their own decisions, without parental limits. Children are being indoctrinated with the idea they can do what they want, and parents cannot interfere. But wise parents will not abdicate God-given authority to mold and shape those children through their adolescent years.

Today there are new threats for parents to deal with that did not exist in past generations. Besides the overwhelming pulls of music, movies, and television—which have been an increasing snare to pollute the minds of our young people—we now have added to those the electronic Internet. Computers and the Internet are tools that can have real value, but they must be very tightly monitored for our young people. Every gross abomination of these "days of Noah" is only a click away for the unsuspecting or unsupervised Internet user. There is much value in learning to use these electronic tools and many very acceptable sources of knowledge and information on the worldwide web, but parents must take the threats very seriously, and be especially vigilant to monitor and control access by children under their authority.

The Internet has now opened up the means for people to interface through e-mail, real-time chat functions, online "communities," and many other venues. Again, the right venues can be very acceptable. The wrong ones can be devastating. Parents need to recognize they need to *aggressively* monitor and control when and how their children use

these tools. Any parent who fails to do so might as well drop off his child or adolescent in the worst part of the city and give him free rein to go where he wants, make friends with whom he wants, and do whatever he wants or is lured into. Would any of us do that? Of course not. How many predators are in the world waiting to take advantage of the weak and innocent? The Internet provides all of these same ungodly predators with access into your very own home if you are not vigilant to keep them out. To whom are your children talking? With whom are they spending time? In what parts of "the city" are they hanging out? Do you know? Are you sure?

Parents are strongly encouraged to avoid allowing their children to use sites like MySpace.com and others which are engendering dangerous reputations for misuse. It is fine to allow children to interface online through *appropriate* websites to share conversation, pictures, etc. with *exclusive* groups—like other church families—but even this should be strongly monitored. Do you know what your children are posting for others to read and see? Are you sure it is acceptable? There are already reports of inappropriate exchanges on the web by some of our young people, which are now permanently posted for anyone else in the world to see. What kind of an example are you and your children setting in your online communications? Are you controlling those words as much as you would in a face-to-face conversation with someone, for instance, at church services? And if not, why not? Not to mention the overriding negative image it gives the world about us—or what God thinks. Even colleges and employers are now routinely searching the Internet for information about prospective students and employees. What are you and your children posting online that may be a permanent and shameful record for all to see for years to come? If you have not considered these things yet, it is high time we get serious about policing the activities of ourselves and our children in these dangerous times.

We are not advocating totally locking away our children from the world. One day, they are going to have to live in this world and make their own decisions. We need to be preparing our children to face that time of independence. Do not prevent your children from learning what they need to know to make their way. But just be very careful that you are fostering a healthy program in your home to guide them within correct principles to sift and learn to make these decisions.

Birth

Mr-s. Matthew Crane of St. Helens, Tasmania, Australia, are pleased to announce the birth of their second daughter, Shilah Mae, in early November. She weighed eight pounds, three ounces, and was twenty and one-half inches long. Mother and baby are doing well.

Office

The cutoff date for 2006 tithes will be December 31, 2006. Please keep this in mind for those contributions you wish to have included in your 2006 statement. Remember, checks and money orders must be dated and envelopes postmarked in 2006.

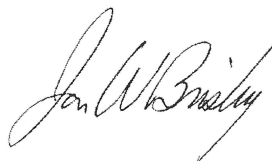
Trip Schedule

December 16	Burnie, Tasmania, Australia
December 23	Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Tape Schedule

Tape #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-JB 80-20	11-16-06	12-09-06	A Survey of the Book of Job #20 Job's Second Reply to Bildad
WSE-JB 80-21	11-16-06	12-16-06	A Survey of the Book of Job #21 Zophar's Last Speech
HFT-RC 81-2-3	11-30-06	12-23-06	Thy Kingdom Come
HFT-RC 83-7-10	11-30-06	12-30-06	The Place of Safety
WSE-RWL 4	12-14-06	01-06-07	The Black Dog of Depression
WSE-JB 80-22	12-14-06	01-13-06	A Survey of the Book of Job #22 Job's Final Reply to Zophar

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby