

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter March 2007

Dear Brethren:

Here we are in the month leading to another solemn Passover season. It is a pleasure to have the chance to address all of you again in this letter, and express again our love and regard for God's devoted children. It is our purpose and commitment to serve you, encourage you, and support you in your quest to put on more of the nature of the real Jesus Christ, and we count it a blessing to have that opportunity. You are always in our thoughts and prayers.

Spiritual Principle—the Second Passover

Since this is the last mailing you will receive from us before the spring Holy Days, this is the time to remind you about important guidelines for keeping the solemn Passover service.

Remember that God is the One who designates where those solemn assemblies are to be held, and He does so through delegated authority of a faithful ministry. God never permitted individual Israelites to decide where they would convoke to worship.

In this age when we have become a scattered remnant, we do not have local ministers and places for group convocation in all areas accessible to our brethren. Some simply live too far away from the nearest designated place. In those cases, this ministry has approved individuals to conduct a Passover service in their own homes, and when the ministry authorizes that, we are confident God supports it and gives His acceptance. But only those who truly live too far away from a designated place have such approval.

Confusion can easily arise because we send all of you an individual copy of the pre-recorded Passover service and sermon messages for the Holy Days. This might lead some to assume they have the option to stay at home and simply use this recording to conduct their own Passover service, if they so choose. But that is not true. If you are one who lives in an

area where a designated place has been assigned for a group, that is the only place authorized for the Passover to be kept in that particular area. If, for instance, you are severely ill or injured, and cannot attend the Passover with the group in your area, you *do not* have authority to just use the Passover recording and conduct your own service at home. This is not permitted! If you have a legitimate reason for not being able to convoke in the place God has designated, your only option is to wait and partake of the *second Passover* one month later. This is God's command for one not able to participate due to an unforeseen complication (Numbers 9:10–11). Partaking of the Passover was so important to God, He provided this second Passover command to address those situations and provide a means to partake of the body and blood of Christ.

The second Passover is not an option for one who simply failed to plan properly. If a complication was foreseen and could have been dealt with in advance, God expects us to work hard to eliminate that obstacle and be sure—without excuse—to be at the true Passover in the first month. One who is cavalier about it and thinks he can default for convenience to the second Passover will not be accepted by God. The ministry must approve any individual to partake of the second Passover. If the reasons for missing the first-month Passover are not truly legitimate, a second Passover will not be authorized. Please keep these important principles in mind.

This would include an individual who decides he is "not worthy" to take the Passover at the designated time. As we have clarified before, we are all commanded to make ourselves ready through self-examination. It is not necessary to have become perfect—without sin—to partake of Passover, but one must have seriously considered his personal failings in comparison with the perfect standard of Christ, be truly repentant of those sins, and be committed to rooting out that sin which has been discovered. Yes, one who partakes of Passover unworthily will eat and drink damnation to himself (1 Corinthians 11:29). But likewise, one who fails to keep Passover—even out of an apparent sense of humility—has also cut himself off from Christ just as much (John 6:53). Either way, we place ourselves in the way of destruction. God has therefore boxed us in. There is only one way to avoid being rejected and cut off. We *must* examine ourselves honestly and soberly, and then we *must* prepare and *partake* of the Passover. Only one who has done this, and then later runs into an unforeseen event that literally prevents his attendance at the designated Passover service will be permitted to partake of the second Passover.

This means that brethren who live in areas where we do have groups and lead men to organize meetings—including our largest groups in the U.S.; Eugene, OR; Vancouver, WA; Baltimore, MD; Knoxville, TN; Boston, MA/Providence, RI, just to name a few—must either attend at the one designated place, or forego keeping the Passover ordinance in the first month. No home service is permitted in those areas. That includes invalids in the area who cannot attend for whatever reason. There are no "home services" approved in any of those areas.

If you have any questions or concerns about where you are authorized to partake of the Passover, please contact a minister in your local area, or at the headquarters church office. We will be happy to assist you so that you can fulfill God's command with perfect confidence.

Cantata for the Days of Unleavened Bread

Most of you already should have received your CD copy of the new *Cantata for the Days of Unleavened Bread*. We were blessed by God to complete this project right on schedule, and are overjoyed at the results. The professional musicians we engaged to perform the piece did an outstanding job, and the final concert performance on Saturday night, February 3rd in Eugene, OR, was incredibly inspirational. There is no doubt that the hand of God favored our efforts. Our special thanks to the outstanding composition and directorial work of Mr. George King, through whom God made this production possible, as well as the coordinating efforts of Mr. Richard Meyn, and the entire church office staff who played such a crucial role in bringing the final results to fruition.

You have received your own personal copy of this recording as a special gift, in anticipation of the upcoming Feast of Unleavened Bread. We hope all of you will find this musical presentation of that key part of God's master plan both inspirational and educational.

Comment

Mr. Delmer Marsh and Mr-s. George Silvers and their family would like to thank all of the brethren for the tremendous amount of love and sympathy shown to them regarding the death of Mrs. Evelyn Marsh. They consider it a great blessing to have such a loving Christian family to lift them up during this sad time. The prayers and expressions of love have been greatly appreciated.

Holy Days

Lead men should be making appropriate preparations for these days:

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| Passover | Sunday, April 1 |
| Night to Be Much Observed | Monday, April 2 |
| 1st Holy Day—Days of Unleavened Bread | Tuesday, April 3 |
| 2nd Holy Day—Days of Unleavened Bread | Monday, April 4 |

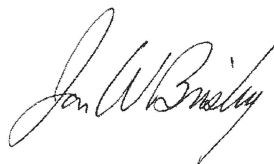
Trip Schedule

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| March 17 | Suna-Migori, Kenya |
| April 7, 9 | Baltimore, Maryland |
| April 14 | Stephenville, Texas |

Tape Schedule

| Tape # | Mailed | Played | Title |
|---------------|----------|----------|--|
| WSE-JB 80-25 | 02-08-07 | 03-03-07 | A Survey of the Book of Job #25 Bildad's Last Speech |
| WST RWL-6 | 02-08-07 | 03-10-07 | Pre-Passover Examination 2007 |
| WSP-JB 43 | 02-22-07 | 03-17-07 | Faith Without Works Is Dead |
| HFT-RC 82-2-1 | 02-22-07 | 03-24-07 | The Sabbath—A Sign Between God and His People #1 |
| HFT-RC 82-4-2 | 03-08-07 | 03-31-07 | The Sabbath—A Sign Between God and His People #2 |
| WSE-JB 80-26 | 03-08-07 | 04-07-07 | A Survey of the Book of Job #26 Job's Final Speech #1 |
| HFT-RC 90-3-1 | 03-22-07 | 04-14-07 | A Contrast Between God's Law and Mercy #1 |

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby