

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter July 2007

Dear Brethren:

Now that July is here, our attention naturally turns toward the next fall Holy Days in God's annual plan, and our anticipation and preparation for the Feast of Tabernacles. We pray that all of you are standing fast in your resolution to keep this way of life, and that in spite of any trials and setbacks along the way, you are feeling blessed and inspired in your spiritual pursuits. Our love and admiration for your stalwart examples is ever constant, and it continues to be our sincere pleasure to be your devoted servants in Christ.

As we try to remind you each year—to be assured of fulfilling God's requirement to keep the fall Holy Days properly—you are each going to have to plan and prepare now. In fact, if you have waited this long, you are already putting that goal much in jeopardy. So often human beings have goals that are nothing but empty wishes. "I plan to go back to school and finish my education someday." "I hope to lose that extra weight this year." "I'd like to spend more time in serving my family and brethren." "I intend to correct that nagging personal problem one of these days." These are typical sentiments we might often hear from others, or even speak ourselves. Yet for most, the road to failure is paved with good intentions.

Is this the way we are thinking about our obligation to appear before God to keep the upcoming Feast of Tabernacles? Do we "want" to be there, "hope" to be there, or just "intend" to be there, *if* things work out? Or have we been making concerted plans to be *sure* to be there, with the resolution to let nothing stand in our way? Yes, many have hopes and wishes, but many never take the necessary steps to make their goals a reality. They basically sit back and expect someone else or some unknown circumstance to save the day. What about you? Are you, even now, executing an aggressive plan to make your compliance sure, or simply "hoping" things work out? These commands are not frivolous. God accepts when an individual truly is unable, for a legitimate reason, to fulfill compliance to travel to be at one of those appointed places. But He is the one who defines what those reasons include,

and He will judge each case, not any one of us. Are we sure we are exerting the full effort He expects, to prove we are doing everything in our power to obey? Now is the time to make sure our thoughtful and purposeful plans are on track to come to fruition.

Often the effort required to obey God's commands to convoke for weekly and annual assemblies is manageable for a number of years, but then gets more difficult as time goes on. The combination of advancing age, not to mention challenging family and personal circumstances, can make us feel that it is a difficult burden with which to comply. We might think, "Because I have attended so faithfully for so many past years, perhaps God will not expect it of me this year, now that it is so much harder." Again, if it is truly not possible, God understands. But the general admonition to the last-day church is this: "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 10:25) [emphasis mine]. Our efforts must increase as times get more challenging, not the other way around. God wants to know who loves Him enough to put Him first above all else. Can you be at the Feast, even with the price of great personal inconvenience? Would God be well pleased if you were willing to do so as an act of love and reverence for Him? Most definitely. What if you had advanced knowledge that God would be taking the church to a place of safety from this year's Feast (this is an example only, not a prophecy), and that only those present would be spared great difficulties to befall the rest of the church? In that fictitious scenario, how possible would it be for you to make it to one of those appointed places? How much extra effort would you be willing to exert with that kind of motivation before you? But even without such an auspicious event looming, why would you make any less effort to be there in a "normal" year? Something to think about.

We all need each other more than ever before, and those commanded assemblies provide the most vital opportunity for spiritual renewal. We look forward to sharing that time of special celebration with you in just a few short weeks.

Births

Mr-s. Zablon Anyumba of Suna-Migori, Kenya, would like to announce the arrival of their daughter, Jane Valary, who was born on May 30.

Mr-s. Simon Odero also of Suna-Migori, Kenya, wish to announce the arrival of their daughter, Shirley Wenner. She was born June 9, weighing seven pounds, nine ounces.

Both of the baby girls are in good health.

Camp Tejas

Camp Tejas begins on July 12 in Truckee, California, and we are asking you to keep it in your prayers so that it may be an enjoyable, successful experience for everyone involved, and that all have safe travel to, from, and during their time at camp.

Feast of Tabernacles

We are now in the countdown prior to the Feast for 2007. To have a successful and rewarding Feast it is necessary to call upon God unitedly for such an occasion. By seeking the help of God, we can eliminate the active and disruptive presence of Satan and his demons. As a vicious adversary he can and will cause much trouble unless we earnestly seek the help of God. The fruits borne will reveal how diligent and effective our prayers were in this countdown time. We rely on you.

Excess Second Tithe

This is just a yearly reminder of the need for second tithe to cover administrative and facility costs for the Feast. We want to reserve adequate for an enjoyable and meaningful Feast. At the same time, we all must remember, to keep the Feast requires the rental of halls, transportation, aid to those who are deserving, etc. If we all contribute, the burden for each is relatively small. A huge thanks to those whose hearts and minds are willing. May God richly and abundantly bless you in all ways.

Second Tithe Requests

Please be reminded that requests for second tithe assistance for the Feast of Tabernacles need to be in by September 1. Any who need assistance should notify us in ample time.

Trip Schedule

July 14	JWB	Truckee, California (Camp Tejas)
July 21	JWB	Cape Cod, Massachusetts

Tape Schedule

Tape #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSP-JB 91	06-14-07	07-07-07	About Intercessory Prayer
WSE-JB 80-32	06-14-07	07-14-07	A Survey of the Book of Job #32 Elihu's Speech #1
WSE-RC 7-4	06-28-07	07-21-07	Christian Principles of Child Rearing #4
WSE-JB 80-33	06-28-07	07-28-07	A Survey of the Book of Job #33 Elihu's Speech #2
WSE-RC 7-5	07-12-07	08-04-07	Christian Principles of Child Rearing #5
WSE-RC 7-6	07-12-07	08-11-07	Christian Principles of Child Rearing #6
WSE-JB 94	07-26-07	08-18-07	Should the Ministry Correct?

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby