

# Church of God, The Eternal

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## Announcement Letter August 2007

Dear Brethren:

Greetings to you in this new month of August, with hopes and prayers that you are well and prospering in every aspect of life that truly matters. We are thankful that God continues to bless us as a remnant body with the capacity to serve you through these letters, through recorded sermons by mail, and through spiritual support as you have need. It might seem redundant month after month to say so, but it is true nonetheless that you are priceless in the eyes of God, and therefore likewise to us, your servants, who are doing His work. May you all find the strength to hold fast through whatever trials may be testing you at the moment, and fight through every adversity to put God first. Many will have setbacks and feel moments of discouragement. That is a natural aspect of a true Christian's experience. But never let that feeling take root to control you. Cast off those weights and act in faith upon the Truth you have received. We are all in this same spiritual struggle together, and although our individual tests may vary, the process of character building is something we all share in common. Have heart and stay the course.

### **Spiritual Principle—Church Assembly Protocol**

With the Feast of Tabernacles only weeks away, it seems a good time to reiterate some specific church assembly protocol that has often been overlooked or misunderstood. These principles apply to every weekly Sabbath service throughout the year where larger groups meet as well as annual festival meetings, but since many of us do not have the opportunity to meet often except during the fall Feast, we may not be aware of these principles.

First, a special note needs to be made about special music. At times, it has been common for people to use the special music portion of the service to get up and go to the restroom, sort through notebooks and Bibles in anticipation of the sermon, or other noisy and distracting activities. This should not be the case. The special music performance is not like

a commercial break in a television program. It is a key part of the offering we are making before God, whom we have asked to come into our very presence and to be worshipped. Besides the fact that we record these performances and do not want extraneous noise on the recordings, the more important issue is the respect we give to God to sit quietly and respectfully during the special music performance. There should be no traffic in or out of the hall at this time. If you are in the hall when the performance begins, you should stay in. If you are outside the hall when the special music begins, you should stay out until the performance is completed. Along with this, unless someone has an unusual medical condition, it should also not be necessary to be getting up and down and going in and out during the sermon either. This too can be a sign of disrespect before God, if it is simply based upon a lack of self-discipline to remain seated during a ninety-minute program. Many in the world today cannot seem to manifest such discipline, but the converted people of God certainly should be capable of a higher standard and be able to set a better example.

Second, proper use of the mother's room has always been a potential source of problems. Such has been the case for decades in the church. It was an issue that concerned Mr. Raymond Cole in years past, who tried to provide guidelines for proper use, but who often felt that it was being abused nonetheless. It seems appropriate to enunciate those same principles again for our young families today. A mother's room is provided specifically for those families with very young children who need special attention. The primary use is for a nursing mother and child. Also periodically, even generally well-behaved children will occasionally manifest behavior problems and a parent will need a place to take them for a short visit. But for the most part, children who have been raised in the church by parents who have consistently practiced the faith once delivered in child-rearing at home should not need a separate room during a church service. In cases where a child does not have two converted parents, or a family has recently come into the church without previous opportunity to teach their children to sit quietly in church services, special accommodations will obviously be necessary. We want those families to have those facilities to help them in that transitional period. But all too often, the mother's room has been treated as a long-term "alternative" place for people to congregate during a service. This is not the case. It was the reason Mr. Cole did not like the idea of piping the sermon into that room with a speaker, because it seemed to foster this idea of an alternative place to hear the message. On the other hand, when the sermon message is not being broadcast into the room, there is a tendency for occupants to start talking among themselves in ways that are inappropriate. There should be no such sideline conversations during a holy convocation, whether one is in the main hall or in the mother's room. Again, the main point is that we are appearing before God to worship and to show Him respect. If we keep these principles in mind, we have the opportunity to make an acceptable offering before our Heavenly Father.

## **Feast of Tabernacles Family Night Socials**

This year a special family night potluck social will be organized in both the Townsend, Tennessee, festival site, as well as the Newport, Oregon, site. In Tennessee it will be held on Saturday evening after sunset, September 29, at the Highland Manor Motel meeting facility (more details to follow on location). The evening will include some volunteer musical performances, as last year.

In Oregon the potluck will be held on Tuesday evening, October 2, in the same Newport Elks Lodge where we meet for all church services. This year in Newport, we are making it a special "fun night," where we are inviting individuals to volunteer their performance talents in singing, dancing, playing an instrument, or maybe even something like reciting poetry. Anyone who is interested in participating should contact Mr. Robert Lebleu who is coordinating all performances for this special evening. He can be reached at (541) 689-2912, or by e-mail at [robertlebleu@hotmail.com](mailto:robertlebleu@hotmail.com).

## **Camp Tejas**

We would like to express a special thank you to Mr. David Brandenburg, Mrs. Jackie Wakefield, and their volunteer assistants, Miss Rebecca Engel, Mr. Duane Garland, Mrs. Kollina Nalder, Mr. Justin Nalder and Mr. Charles Armstrong, for their personal sacrifice and willingness to make Camp Tejas a success again this year. We would also like to thank the church ladies for their contributions of baked goods. From all accounts, the teens had a wonderful twelve-day summer camp experience, made possible by much hard work of the organizing staff.

It is to those volunteer church members who have sacrificed so much that we all owe a debt of gratitude. We must never take for granted that there will be another camp opportunity next year. It is all according to the willingness of Mr. David Brandenburg and Mrs. Jackie Wakefield as the sponsors, organizers, and driving force behind the project. The church will certainly continue to support them as the principals as long as they choose to continue that volunteer service.

## **Death**

Mr. Bill Wakefield of Stephenville, Texas died Friday, July 20, of a septic blood infection. He had suffered many years with multiple sclerosis. His wife, Jackie, has been a faithful member and a willing sponsor of Camp Tejas each year. We send our love, concern, and condolences to Jackie, their daughter Elizabeth, and their family and friends.

## **Prayer Request**

[Omitted for confidentiality]

## **Excess Second Tithe**

This is another 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.

## **Holy Days**

Feast of Trumpets . . . . . Thursday, September 13

Atonement . . . . . Sabbath, September 22

Feast of Tabernacles . . . . . September 27–October 3

Last Great Day . . . . . October 4

## **Trip Schedule**

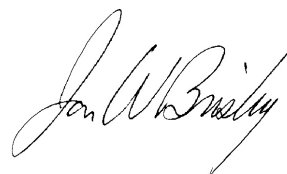
September 8                      Seville, Spain

September 13, 15                Penrith, England

## Tape Schedule

Tape #	Mailed	Played	Title
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?
HFT-RC 82-5	07-26-07	08-25-07	Prepare Now for Persecution and Trials #1
HFT-RC 82-7	08-09-07	09-01-07	Prepare Now for Persecution and Trials #2
WSE-JB 80-34	08-09-07	09-08-07	A Survey of the Book of Job #34 Elihu's Speech #3
Holy Day Sermons	08-09-07	(Feast of Trumpets and Day of Atonement Sermons)	
WSE-JB 80-35	08-23-07	09-16-07	A Survey of the Book of Job #35 Elihu's Speech #4

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby