

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter September 2007

Dear Brethren:

Our greetings abound to all of you around the world, with deep and abiding appreciation for your determination to hold fast to God's truth in troubling times. The knowledge that you are out there fighting to practice this way of life in a world that pulls against God's Truth more and more as time goes by, is an inspiration to all of us who are working to serve you. As long as God gives us the strength and capacity to do so, we will keep providing you with sermons, letters, and our sincere friendship as brethren of the common faith. Never doubt your importance in the plan of God. With so few at this time who are even cognizant of God's revealed truth—let alone willing to practice it—every one of you is very unique and valuable in God's plan. Never doubt that.

Spiritual Principle—Moderation at the Feast

We are all in the final stages of our preparation to keep God's Feasts this month, and what a blessing it will be to gather together in our largest convocations of the year to observe the Feast of Tabernacles in those designated places where God has placed His name. If we have dutifully saved our second tithe as commanded by God, we should be in position to attend that Feast, and once there, to enjoy a true foretaste of the coming Kingdom of God. God wants His children to celebrate and to enjoy good things at this time of year, to picture the blessings to come when Jesus Christ will rule on this earth. So God wants us to partake of special physical blessings we might not have the chance to enjoy as much at other times of the year.

And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul [longs for], for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth: and thou shalt eat there before the LORD thy God, and thou shalt rejoice, thou, and thine household (Deuteronomy 14:26).

We must be very careful, however, not to allow this spirit of commanded celebration to turn into excess. If we are not very careful, this can happen to any one of us. Many of you may have more opportunity to eat, drink, and be merry at the Feast than at any other time. And with God's specific command to celebrate, it is easy to view this as a license to overindulge. But that is not true. We must be very careful not to allow the abuse of food, alcohol, and the spirit of celebration to undermine our Feast experience. Remember, we are to be picturing the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ. His Kingdom will not be one of drunken, gluttonous revelers. At all times, and maybe especially at the Feast, we need to remember the overriding principles of moderation incumbent upon true Christians.

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand (Philippians 4:4–5).

For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another (Galatians 5:13).

These principles are important for us to remember, if we want to please God and to enjoy the kind of Feast that will engender good memories and an example to others.

With this in mind, please be careful about the use of alcohol. Some in times past have used second tithe to stock up on beer, wine, and spirits like they were sponsoring a college fraternity party. It is one thing if you are truly having a get-together and offering alcohol in moderation to your guests, but be careful not to generate a worldly image of excess. Not only must we be considerate of church members who are former alcoholics and do not need that influence (there are more than you might know), but we also do not want to create a bad impression for the people of the world around us.

Be careful also about the consumption of food. We might have the opportunity to eat a greater abundance of rich food at the Feast, but too much of "a good thing" will take its toll on our health. It goes without saying that even though we are away from home, we should be striving to eat good food and avoid those things that God considers corrupt according to His dietary laws. All too many in past years have had to ask to be anointed during the Feast for the onset of illness resulting in part from bad food choices and overindulgence.

Remember also that necessary sleep is a requirement for good health. We may be tempted to violate this principle at the Feast in order to enjoy as much fellowship as possible with our dear brethren. But we cannot enjoy the Feast fully if we are deprived of sleep, since we will not be attentive during the services, and our immune systems will be weakened, making us vulnerable to illness. If we keep all of these principles in mind and use good self-discipline, we will make it possible to have the kind of Feast experience God wants for us.

Hymnals Available for Purchase

As most of you are aware, the church produced new hymnals in 2003 for use in our Sabbath services and festival convocations. We distributed these quality hard-bound books to most of our English-speaking areas around the world where our brethren congregate. In the US, we also made extra copies available for members who wanted to purchase their own book for personal use. We offered those private copies for sale at the Feast of Tabernacles in 2003. For those who did not want to purchase a hymnal but still wanted to take one home, we checked-out a church-owned hymnal to those individuals and kept records of those transactions. The original order of hymnals produced was sufficient to provide a supply of church-owned books to keep on hand for our large meetings, as well as a supply to be sold or checked-out to individuals at that time. But soon thereafter we ran out of spare books to offer for sale and have not been able to do so for the last couple of years. Only soft-covered spiral copies have been issued since then.

This is to let you know we have just received shipment of a new supply of hard-bound hymnals, and will again be offering them for sale to members who attend the Feast in Townsend, TN, and Newport, OR. For those wishing to purchase a hymnal, the cost will be \$15.00—slightly less than our cost to produce each book. We will also allow more church-owned books to be checked-out for those who prefer it. Both the hymnals to be checked-out and those to be purchased will be made available at the registration desk at each US Feast site this year. If you have any other questions about this process, please let us know by contacting the church office here in Eugene.

US Feast Site Addresses

In Newport, OR, the Feast will be held at the Elks Lodge, located at 45 John Moore Road, to the left, off of Highway 20 just as you are going into Newport.

In Townsend, TN, the Feast will be at the Townsend Municipal Building at 133 Tiger Drive. This building also houses the police and fire departments and is next to the Townsend Elementary School.

If you need further information please call the church office at (541) 344-8880.

Holy Days

Feast of Trumpets Thursday, September 13
Atonement Sabbath, September 22
Feast of Tabernacles September 27–October 3
Last Great Day Thursday, October 4

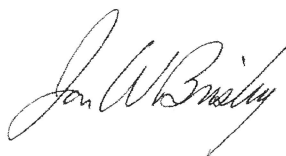
Trip Schedule

September 8	Seville, Spain
September 13 (Feast of Trumpets), 15	Penrith, England
September 26–29 (Feast of Tabernacles)	Townsend, Tennessee
October 1–4 (Feast of Tabernacles)	Newport, Oregon

Tape Schedule

Tape #	Mailed	Played	Title
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 Sermon	08-09-07	09-13-07	Feast of Trumpets
WSE-JB 80-35	08-23-07	09-15-07	A Survey of the Book of Job #35 Elihu's Speech #4
Holy Day Sermon	08-09-07	09-22-07	Day of Atonement
WSE-RC Q-1	08-23-07	10-06-07	Have We Learned to Live With One Another? #1
WSE-JB 80-36	09-06-07	10-13-07	A Survey of the Book of Job #36 Elihu's Speech #5
WSE-RC Q-2	09-06-07	10-20-07	Have We Learned to Live With One Another? #2

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby