

Church of God, The Eternal

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The late Raymond C. Cole
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Announcement Letter May 2008

Dear Brethren:

We greet you all again, wherever you live around this globe, with hopes and prayers that you had a very inspiring Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread. We have had only very good reports thus far from our scattered congregations, and we thank God again for His continued love and mercy which He gives so abundantly.

How could any of us hope to stand if not for the miracle of His divine protection? We are each one of us so weak and our enemies are so strong, that except for special supernatural help and defense from a Supreme Advocate, we would be overrun and vanquished in an instant by our own natures and by the wrath of Satan. The very fact that we continue—even in the pain of trials of mind and body within this life—is testament to the loving care of a sustaining Heavenly Father. For those of us who fought through the immediate obstacles which tried to deter us from obeying God's command to keep the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread properly, we felt the thrill of seeing that determination pay off, as God opened up His special blessings. He promises to fight our battles for us, but He always requires us to exert our own maximum effort as well, to prove that we love Him. When we refuse to give in to those forces which seek to discourage us, even when it seems there is no way to prevail, what a thrill to see God take up our remaining burdens and carry us forward to success. He never makes that road easy, because He is intentionally creating a challenging environment to produce more spiritual fruits within us. But what an encouragement to be able to look back and see His hand working and guiding all along the way.

For those of you who look back at your recent personal choices and are dissatisfied with what you did, there is still great hope. If you were one who succumbed to the obstacles which were put in your path, and in hindsight you feel ashamed at the outcome, all you have to do is own up to that responsibility and make your stand now to walk the correct path. We

have a loving and merciful Heavenly Father—and Elder Brother, Jesus Christ—who is ever willing to forgive and to intervene to help and to sustain us. There is no mistake you have made that cannot be put under the shed blood of Jesus Christ, if you become truly repentant and prove it with action. Now is the time to dig in and—as Mr. Raymond Cole always used to say—grab that self by the nape of the neck and say, "Bud, you're not going to do that!"

Even if you have not acted in the past with such resolve, can you begin to do that more in this coming year? It may mean the difference in life and death. And before that final Judgment, it will mean the difference in your quality of life while you remain in the flesh. Sin and compromise seems to pay a dividend in the short-run, but even that is very fleeting and leaves us empty and miserable. There is always a penalty for the violation of God's commands. Always. Why not resolve to bring fewer of those penalties upon yourself henceforth through greater exercise of obedience?

We are now in the midst of the count towards Pentecost. Wave sheaf day—the first day of the Hebrew count from Leviticus 23—was Sunday, April 27, the day following the last day of Unleavened Bread (the only weekly Sabbath within the seven-day feast). You will hear about the history of this inspired counting method in one of the sermons slated for Pentecost services. The last day of that count of fifty will be Sunday, June 15. When that final day of the count is fulfilled entirely—at sunset Sunday evening—Pentecost will begin.

Are you thinking ahead already to that next commanded Holy Day on the horizon? Part of God's training for us is to keep us ever vigilant to plan for those upcoming convocations. God's Sabbaths—both the weekly Sabbath and the annual Sabbaths—are the sign between God and His people. Only those who are going out of their way to plan with diligence are making sure to be under that protective sign. Brethren, we each need the divine protection of God to sustain us against so many enemies. If we fear God sufficiently and apply ourselves with urgency to obey Him, we can be assured that He will continue to fight our battles for us until the very end. What an incredible promise that is, and what a blessing to be among those few spiritual Israelites today with whom He has made this pledge.

Wedding

Mr. Kevin Knott originally from Grass Range, MT, and Miss Ginger Shimon of Junction City, OR, were married Friday, April 11, in Eugene, OR, in a private ceremony with Mr. Brisby officiating. We give them our congratulations and best wishes.

Death

We are saddened to announce the death of Mrs. Cecile Anderson formerly of Eugene, OR, and a devoted long-time member of the church. She died as a result of a very aggressive brain tumor and was eighty-one years of age at the time of her death on April 23. We offer sincere condolences to her children: Mrs. Sheila King, Mrs. Paulette Dezur, and Mr. Douglas Anderson, her grandchildren, and her extended family and friends. She will be missed by all.

New Moon

The new moon, Iyar (second month), will begin on the evening of May 5. The new moon day is May 6.

Holy Day

Pentecost: Monday, June 16, 2008

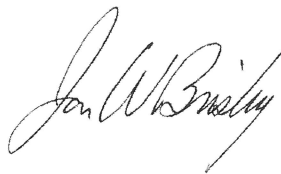
Trip Schedule

June 7	JWB	Cape Town, South Africa
June 14, 16	JWB	Lausanne, Switzerland; Grenoble, France

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
CL2 52 (RC)	04-10-08	05-03-08	Principles of Christian Living: Gentleness #2
WSE-JB 22-90-24C	04-10-08	05-10-08	Fund. of Belief: Divine Revelation Bible Study and Divine Revelation
WSE-JB 22-91-24D	05-01-08	05-17-08	Fund. of Belief: Divine Revelation Two Facets of Divine Revelation
CL2 53 (RC)	05-01-08	05-24-08	Principles of Christian Living: Gentleness #3
WSE-JB 22-92-24E	05-01-08	05-31-08	Fund. of Belief: Divine Revelation The Apostle Paul and Divine Revelation
CL2 54 (RC)	05-22-08	06-07-08	Principles of Christian Living: Gentleness #4
WSE-JB 22-93-24F	05-22-08	06-14-08	Fund. of Belief: Divine Revelation Mr. H. W. Armstrong and Divine Revelation

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby