

Church of God, The Eternal

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The late Raymond C. Cole
Founding Pastor
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Offices in: United States
Philippines
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Kenya

Announcement Letter January 2009

Dear Brethren:

Greetings to the faithful of God in your scattered locations around the world in this month of January, 2009. We pray that you are being blessed in both your physical and spiritual endeavors, and that you have much for which to thank God in spite of the challenges we face in these difficult times. All of you continue to be very precious to us because you are repositories for God's Holy Spirit working in your lives, and all who possess that legitimate Spirit of God are dear treasures indeed.

Over recent years, there are many who have asked to be added to our mailing lists for sermons and monthly mailings. There are a significant number of people who are receiving that spiritual meat offered continually from this remnant group but whom we have never yet met. (This does not even include the number who access that same material anonymously from our website.) We are very happy to provide that material free of charge to those whom God sends. We understand that these subscribers have many and varied reasons for seeking that material.

Some receive publications from a number of different groups and just want to have ours for comparison. Others might feel a closer affinity to us in particular but may still be gun-shy about getting too close. They may really value the material but still have reservations about making personal contact with our fellowship by attending the Feast of Tabernacles or communicating directly with the ministry. We understand that many of God's people in past years have had very bad experiences within either our parent organization or perhaps one of the many splinter groups out there today. To take a chance upon reaching out, with the potential of receiving more mental trauma in return, is just too daunting. It may be easier just to partake of the sermons and articles from afar and maintain a safe distance.

It creates a bit of a dilemma for this ministry. We never want to put pressure upon anyone or put one of God's dear children in an awkward situation. On one hand, if we were

to reach out and seek to make a closer contact (like a personal visit if one of us was in the area), that might seem threatening. On the other hand, we know there are those (maybe only a few) who might actually respond positively if we were able to reach out and put them at ease with a personal contact. The faithful ministry of Jesus Christ has an obligation to seek out the lost sheep (Ezekiel 34:6–8). Mr. Raymond Cole well understood that principle and was concerned in evaluating whether he was doing enough in God's eyes. Yet he also knew that the entire premise for this remnant body was founded upon not doing an aggressive work, but being available for those whom God sent to him. Where do we draw the line between holding fast to that premise which God has blessed all of these years, and yet being sure we are not guilty of neglecting lost sheep who are in need? It is an issue that Mr. Cole continued to weigh himself, case by case, and that which this remaining ministry must face continually as well. We never want to be guilty of driving ones away because they are skittish of closer contact for now. But we likewise do not want to be negligent in seeking out the lost sheep.

All we can do is to ask God to continue guiding us through His Holy Spirit in dealing with each individual case. But if there are any of you out there reading this letter who fall into one of these categories, and there is anything further we can do to help you in your spiritual trek, just know that we are here to be a help and an aid to you. We are not interested in ruling in your personal lives. God gave that responsibility to you, not to us. This ministry is not seeking to be served by the people or to exercise authority for our own aggrandizement. We are truly here to be your servants. If we fail to manage our responsibilities correctly, we will pay for it dearly in the coming Judgment. We know that, and remain in healthy fear daily to discharge our responsibilities with the love and compassion which Jesus Christ would manifest Himself in person. We make many mistakes which Christ would never make Himself, but hopefully we are able to supply the effective spiritual support which God intended through earnest—though fallible—human servants.

Please never hesitate to contact us. And for those of you who have a strong affinity for Church of God, The Eternal but have never attended one of those Holy Day observances with us, I hope you might consider doing so, even if it might require a great leap of faith to step into the seeming unknown. You might just find that fellowship with the ministry and brethren of this remnant body will add immeasurably to your ability to grow spiritually. As times get harder and the days become more evil toward the arrival of Jesus Christ, those who share a real love of the revealed Truth of God are going to need each other more than ever before. God helping us, we want always to provide a warm and inviting door for any of you who might consider taking that step. But we will always seek to respect your privacy and allow you to show us what level of contact you are most comfortable in accepting.

Updates to Member Database/Privacy Update

We have improved the capabilities of the church member database to allow us to offer all of you some new options. There are a few (but increasing) number of brethren who now prefer accessing our new sermons from the website, and who do not need to receive hard audio media by mail. They simply download the sermons to their own computers and then save or copy them as they desire. We can now update our database files to indicate members who choose this option. The record shows that the member is receiving the sermons, but doing so electronically.

Similarly, we are now able to offer another alternative for those who would like to begin receiving their copy of this *Announcement Letter* and the *Monthly Letter* electronically rather than by paper through the mail. If you would like to take advantage of this new service, just let us know, and we will add you to an e-mail distribution list to begin receiving your monthly letters electronically. These letters will be made available in pdf format, so it will require you to have *Acrobat Reader* software (a free download from the internet) to open and view/print these documents.

If you have any questions about these new options, please feel free to contact us in the office, and we will be happy to assist. Please note we are not seeking to move any of you away from receiving paper copies of your letters or hard media sermon recordings. This is truly a new service we are now able to offer based upon increasing demand. Now that our system has been configured for it, it will cost us nothing going forward to provide these new "e-services."

Our new system upgrade also allows us now to flag your member record with a personal preference about contact information privacy. If you want to allow us to give your address, phone number, and e-mail address to other members who ask for it, just let us know and we will document your file to note it is OK to release this information. If you do not specifically tell us it is OK to give out this information, we will assume you desire to maintain your complete privacy. In such case, if we do receive a request for your contact information from another member, the church office staff will contact you to ask permission to give it out to the individual. Without such approval, your privacy will be assured.

New Oregon Feast of Tabernacles Site

We are pleased to announce that we have confirmed a new location for keeping the Feast of Tabernacles in Oregon. The 2009 Feast will be held in the coastal town of Yachats (yah-hots), Oregon, 25 miles south of Newport on Highway 101. Church services, social functions, and other activities will be held at the *Yachats Commons* facility, at 401 N. Coast Highway 101.

Why are we making a change away from Newport? We have appreciated the blessing of the Elks Lodge the church has used for the past six years, but the new facility in Yachats will provide a number of new advantages. First, the meeting hall is larger, contains a built-in infrastructure for audio/video production, has better acoustics, includes a connected commercial kitchen for potluck socials, has a convenient mother's room, offers plenty of parking with handicap access, and includes exclusive use of an outdoor pavilion and playground. It is also a short walk to the ocean. Similar to our facility in Townsend, TN, the building was originally a local school which is now used as the city hall office. Most of the complex is not used by the city, but rented out to the public. The city has been very accommodating and eager for our business, and the cost of these improved facilities will be very comparable to what we have been paying in Newport the last few years.

Second, Yachats is a quaint, picturesque little town, containing all of the beauty of the Oregon coast without the congestion of Newport. There are plenty of accommodations of all kinds (motels, hotels, condominiums, vacation homes, campgrounds), and they are available right in or nearby the town, so everything is very close. Those who would like to walk to services will have many housing options. There are a variety of restaurants, with one village grocery store and a gas station. While Yachats does not have any large department stores, it is still less than a thirty minute drive to either Newport or Florence for any of those needs. We believe that being able to keep the Feast in a quiet, serene setting is much preferable to having a Wal-Mart next door. The town of Waldport (eight miles north) also provides additional stores for most needs.

Enclosed in this mailing is material to provide an overview of Yachats particulars to help you in your planning for the 2009 Feast. We realize that after holding the Feast in Newport for so many consecutive years, such a change (even just a few miles down the road) might seem traumatic for some. But we feel strongly that God has opened this opportunity as a real blessing for the church, and we are confident this is the place He has chosen to place His name for the 2009 Feast of Tabernacles.

There are no scheduled changes for our Feast site in Townsend, TN, so all should be the same as last year for those of you keeping the Feast there. If you have any questions about arrangements for the fall Feast in either of our two US sites, please feel free to contact us at the church office, and we will be very happy to assist you with more information.

New Moon

The new moon, Shebat (eleventh month), will begin on the evening of January 25. The new moon day is January 26.

Death

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Mrs. Dorothy McKenzie of Ventura, CA. She was a long-time member of the church and was ninety-three years of age at the time of her death. Her husband preceeded her in death by many years. We extend our condolences to her family.

Birth

Mr-s. Kevin Knott of Junction City, OR, would like to announce the arrival of their son, James David. James was born December 6, and weighed eight pounds, three ounces. They are all doing fine.

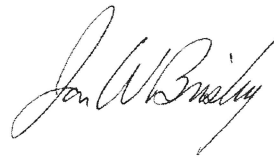
Trip Schedule

January 24	JWB	Mansfield, Massachusetts
January 31	JWB	Stephenville, Texas

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
CL2 60 (RC)	12-04-08	01-03-09	Principles of Christian Living: Goodness #4
WSE-JB 111-1	12-24-08	01-10-09	Principles of Radiant Health Diet Beyond the Basics, Part A
CL2 61 (RC)	12-24-08	01-17-09	Principles of Christian Living: Goodness #5
CL2 62 (RC)	12-24-08	01-24-09	Principles of Christian Living: Goodness #6
WSE-JB 111-2	01-15-09	01-31-09	Principles of Radiant Health Diet Beyond the Basics, Part B
WSE-JB 111-3	01-15-09	02-07-09	Principles of Radiant Health Health Beyond Diet, Part A
CL2 63 (RC)	01-15-08	02-14-09	Principles of Christian Living: Goodness #7

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby