

Announcement Letter February 2011

Dear Brethren:

Thank you for the chance to address you once again in this new issue. Those of you who receive this *Announcement Letter* each month make up the core of our membership worldwide, and we are privileged to be your servants in God's name. It is our hope and prayer that you are holding firm to your faith in the unchanging doctrines of that one true God, and that you are finding the means to grow ever closer to Him through the power of Jesus Christ.

The *Monthly Letter* included in this mailing is always available to the whole world from our website, but this particular letter is provided primarily to those who express a special interest in having a more direct connection with this fellowship. It is not that there is anything really *special*, let alone *secret*, in the content of this letter, but it has always been used—initially by Mr. Raymond Cole, and now by yours truly—as a means to speak more personally each month to our faithful members scattered around the world. Often, when new contacts seek to join our fellowship, we are asked, "What do I have to do to be a member?" We have no official membership process, no screening of applicants, and no initiations to complete. It is simply a matter of someone choosing to receive our materials and thereby becoming fed by that spiritual meat provided in sermons and letters. Furthermore, it involves the choice (for those who are physically able) to travel to fellowship in person at Church of God, The Eternal assemblies on weekly or annual Sabbaths, especially at the Feast of Tabernacles. But there again, the individual is totally in control of that process. Those who share an agreement with what we are doing and who believe that this ministry is truly speaking with the authority of Jesus Christ are free to participate in any of those assemblies. So once again, "membership" is totally in the hands of the individual. We do not erect obstacles or impediments to make that process difficult. Just desire earnestly to be part of us, and then prove it by going out of your way to assemble with us peacefully in those holy convocations (whenever possible), and that pretty much makes you a member.

We hope that these efforts to provide recorded sermons and monthly mailings are a blessing to you. We know that it must be so for many of you because you provide feedback to us about the specific content which demonstrates you are listening, reading, and studying that material intently. That is always gratifying to your devoted servants who spend much time and effort in preparing those lessons. At the same time, simple probability suggests that a certain percentage of the letters and sermons we mail out may simply be relegated to a closet shelf without a glance. It may be that someone who initially wanted the material has since flagged in his enthusiasm, but yet hesitates to ask to be removed from our mailing list. Or, it

may be that some of you are sincere in wanting to be part of this fellowship, but find it difficult to make time to study the material you receive from us. We hope the sermons and letters are tools you are using actively to help enhance your relationship with God. That is our sole intent for producing and distributing all of it. But to what extent it is valued is a very personal and individual consideration. Like membership, use of those sermons and letters is according to your own personal volition. We do not quiz you on the content. We will never try to force any of you to "jump through hoops" to remain a member in good standing, or to feel part of this remnant fellowship. The membership which truly matters is *the invisible membership* in the Body of Jesus Christ—the Church—and that membership list is not controlled by us or any other human beings. God only decides who is found on that list, and He decides what is your membership standing at any given time. He is the One who judges our hearts and knows whether in private we are truly devoted and enthusiastic members. He also knows whether the tools being offered by the inspiration of His chosen servants are being utilized wisely by each one of us.

We, as your humble physical servants, will always assume the best concerning each one of you, and we will do all within our power to encourage and support you in that spiritual walk. But please know that you do not have to prove anything to us. We will never be your judges. God has given us neither the capacity nor the authority to do that job. He has reserved that to Himself, and we are very thankful simply to stay discretely within the bounds of our limited authority and to be the messengers of His divine instruction in these last days. May you be edified, enlightened, and enriched by His loving care and guidance.

Church Website Update

Many of you who use the church website at www.cogeternal.org may already have noticed significant changes. We recently completed the initial phase of updates and are very happy to announce the new changes. The basic content of the site, including sermons, letters, and articles, is virtually the same. However, the formatting, navigation, and appearance has been changed significantly. Our intent is to make sure this website provides the most professional first impression possible to those who find us initially, as well as to be a functional and practical resource for accessing reliable instruction concerning the faith once delivered. We want our site to stand apart from all of the others, to make it easier to distinguish our doctrinal orientation from all of those who may claim similarities. The Internet continues to be the primary means by which more of God's sheep find us, and so we will continue to invest much in our presence electronically. It is a vehicle which God has certainly blessed for the last dozen years so we will continue working to improve and enhance its value, not only for new contacts, but also for all of our loyal members who depend upon it more and more.

Because of the monumental scope of this transition, there will yet be refinements and corrections to be made in coming weeks. If you experience any issues while using the new site, we encourage you to provide your constructive feedback. Your input will be very much appreciated.

Recorded Sermon Mailing

For those of you who are still receiving your weekly sermons on cassette tapes, please know that the sermon labeled WSE JB 22-120-25J, Marriage and Divorce: God's Marriage in a Song #6, is missing a few minutes of the end of the sermon. This is only true for those who receive their sermons on cassette tape. If you receive CDs, you have the whole sermon. A new tape of #6 will be sent to those of you receiving cassettes along with the next regular mailing. We apologize for any inconvenience.

New Moon

The new moon, Adar I (twelfth month), will begin on the evening of February 4. The new moon day is February 5.

The new moon, Adar II (thirteenth month), will begin on the evening of March 6. The new moon day is March 7.

Holy Days

Lead men should be making appropriate preparations for these days:

Passover (evening)	Sunday, April 17
Night to Be Much Observed	Monday, April 18
1st Holy Day—Days of Unleavened Bread	Wednesday, April 19
2nd Holy Day—Days of Unleavened Bread	Tuesday, April 25

Trip Schedule

Mr. Brisby:

March 12 Baltimore, Maryland
March 19 Paarl, South Africa

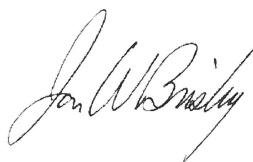
Mr. Richard Litz:

February 5 Perryville, Arkansas
February 12 Stephenville, Texas
February 19 Phoenix, Arizona

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-JB 22-120-25E-6	01-13-11	01-29-11	Fund. of Belief #25: Marriage and Divorce: God's Marriage in a Song #6
CL 1-14	01-13-11	02-05-11	What Does God Require of Us? Attitude, Belief, Denial, Offense (#1)
WSE-JB 22-121-25E-7	01-13-11	02-12-11	Fund. of Belief #25: Marriage and Divorce: God's Marriage in a Song #7
WSE-JB 22-122-25E-8	02-03-11	02-19-11	Fund. of Belief #25: Marriage and Divorce: God's Marriage in a Song #8
CL 1-15	02-03-11	02-26-11	What Does God Require of Us? Attitude, Belief, Denial, Offense (#2)
WSE-JB 22-123-25E-9	02-03-11	03-05-11	Fund. of Belief #25: Marriage and Divorce: God's Marriage in a Song #9
CL 1-16	02-24-11	03-12-11	What Does God Require of Us? Attitude, Belief, Denial, Offense (#3)

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby