

Announcement Letter October 2011

Dear Brethren:

Some of you may not read this letter until you return from the Feast, but we are eager nonetheless to greet you and to thank you for being part of this remnant body, holding faithfully to that Truth which Jesus Christ revealed in these last days.

Here we are in the midst of another fall Holy Day season, anticipating the joy of celebrating before God and rehearsing again the glorious plan He is working out for human salvation. For those who can muster the strength to set aside all distractions, that hope and promise of the future is most satisfying, and any sacrifice required to put God first and to honor His commandments (including being at those Feasts) is a testament to our spiritual convictions. It is not easy, and God is going to force us—sooner or later—to face every weakness which might conceivably be an idol in our minds. What will we choose to do? Do we walk the correct path only as long as it is somewhat convenient to do so? Or have we truly come to the place where we value that way enough to sacrifice anything and everything else which would require compromise?

Mr. Raymond Cole was one who proved in the time of his own trying that his love for God's Truth was no fair-weather enchantment. We can easily take for granted today what courage he demonstrated in those dark and confusing days of the early 1970s when the true church of God began down a very deceptive path toward destruction. Most of us can now see with the clarity of perfect hindsight and know that he did the right thing to stand resolute against those doctrinal changes, even when his beloved mentor, Herbert Armstrong, and all of the other senior ministers of the time, went along with those changes. Yes, today it seems crystal clear, but at the time it was anything but clear. He had to make those choices in the fog of a spiritual war. There were so many reasons to go along—to compromise—and that is exactly what the majority did. Only Raymond Cole stood firm and put his conviction in the divine revelation of Jesus Christ above all other considerations. What an example.

And yet that is the very same test that each one of us must likewise pass in our own way, sooner or later. God has designed His work with the church to demand that each one of us prove what we truly love most. What do you love most? For example, if you have resisted attending the Feast of Tabernacles this year for any reason except legitimate physical disability, that is proof that you are making some other consideration preeminent in your life.

This may be the fog of your own spiritual war, and your choices right now may be the ones that determine whether you make it into God's Kingdom—or not. You will hear much in the Feast sermons on this very topic.

This month also marks the tenth anniversary of the death of Mr. Raymond Cole. (He actually died on September 25, 2001, but according to God's calendar—having died two days before Atonement—this year the anniversary would be October 6, the very day we are releasing this letter.) It is fitting that we take time to think about the blessings God has granted us over those ten years. Your continuity in defending the faith is a testament that this work was never a personality cult for Mr. Cole. Had that been the case, we would have fractured and dissolved by now, or else departed in doctrine and evolved away from those things for which Mr. Cole stood. Yet here we are, defending *the very same Truth* and holding firm to *the very same doctrines* for which Mr. Cole himself made so much personal sacrifice. We have done so because we love the same things he loved, and those things are spiritual, not carnal. It was always his desire to help the people of God come to really love the Truth and to be willing to defend it at all costs. He never wanted a personal following. So the very best honor you and I can give to him is our personal conviction and continuity in that Way. He would be very pleased indeed to find that so many of you—even many of you newer members whom he never met—have come to value that same Truth and are bearing real spiritual fruit today. Through Raymond Cole, God blessed us to see the value in the original revelation, and then to grow mightily in spiritual depth in that way during the next twenty-five years of his life, until his death in 2001. In all of those years we have not been a "dead church." We have learned so much over the past thirty-seven years—since the apostasy of 1974, and in spite of the turmoil which has devastated the church in that time. We have never been a large body, but by God's inspiration through Raymond Cole we have been incredibly resilient. And over the last ten years we have not gotten weaker, but stronger in every way.

May each of you take a moment to reflect upon the incredible blessings we have been given to understand God's Truth, and to be part of a remnant body whom God has preserved with an understanding of His divine purpose through our own *fogs of war*. Through the inspired and fearless teachings of men like Raymond Cole, God has made it possible for a remnant like ours to persevere and to be sustained, even through the first decade since that servant's death. With God's help, may we all continue to fight together to hold fast to that priceless *faith once delivered*.

New Moon

The new moon, Heshvan (eighth month), will begin on the evening of Friday, October 28. The new moon day is Sabbath, October 29.

Trip Schedule

Mr. Brisby:

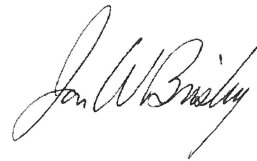
November 19 Somerset, Tasmania, Australia

November 26 Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-JB 22-135-25-G4	09-22-11	10-22-11	Fund. of Belief #25: Marriage and Divorce: The Responsibilities of Marriage #4
WSE-RC-27-4	09-22-11	10-29-11	Resolve to Live the Faith: #4 Create an Atmosphere of Love #2
WSE-JB 22-136-25-G5	09-22-11	11-05-11	Fund. of Belief #25: Marriage and Divorce: The Responsibilities of Marriage #5
WSE-RC 27-5	10-27-11	11-12-11	Resolve to Live the Faith: #5 Create an Atmosphere of Love #3
WSE-JB 22-137-25-G6	10-27-11	11-19-11	Fund. of Belief #25: Marriage and Divorce: The Responsibilities of Marriage #6

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby