

## Announcement Letter May 2015

Dear Brethren:

What a pleasure to have the chance to write to all of you this month again and to greet you as dear friends and brethren of the common faith. After we have the opportunity to build personal relationships with others who share a love for God's Truth, it makes all other worldly relationships pale by comparison. It is not that we do not love sincerely our unconverted families and friends, but there is something especially "elevating" about the bonds that develop with those in whom God's Spirit dwells—those sharing a love for the plan that God is working out upon this earth. Thanks to each of you for being a part of that spiritual family. You are all very dear, and we pray that we may have the chance to continue serving you in that bond of peace, even though we are so scattered geographically at this time.

Having completed our observance of the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, we now look for the speedy approach of Pentecost, just days away. As mentioned to you before, Monday, May 25, will be the fortieth observance of the *one-true Pentecost* by this remnant fellowship in exile from our parent church. Last year marked the fortieth anniversary of *the corruption* of Pentecost by the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), when they stopped observing Monday (after nearly four decades), turning instead to a Sunday worship.

In 1974, Mr. Raymond Cole and those others believing in the sanctity of Monday Pentecost for the most part were still active members of that parent church, and only just coming to grips with what this new abomination within God's physical assembly would produce. There was still hope that Mr. Armstrong would intervene and countermand this new doctrinal perversion. So that year, having no place to keep the real Pentecost within the WCG, these few scattered ones could only try to observe it in small groups in their own homes. What a very dark time in the history of God's last-day Church.

By the end of 1974, it became apparent that the real Pentecost *would not be restored*, and in fact, anyone who refused to accept the authority of the Pastor General to "bind and loose doctrine" was summarily put out. This included Raymond Cole. As noted to you recently, that is why this little remnant formed officially soon thereafter, and why we marked our fortieth anniversary as a legal entity this past February. It is also why this year's Pentecost observance in 2015 will mark the fortieth year that Church of God, The Eternal has provided *officially designated places of assembly* for the faithful to worship God in *revealed Truth*.

Our intent is not to promulgate some prophetic significance about this forty-year milestone. God has not revealed to us His timeline or specific intents for the near future. We simply take note of the fact that the history of God's dealing with chosen people has often been seen in blocks of forty-year periods, defining both the limit of faithful national obedience before descending into idolatry, as well as the length of God's estrangement from them because of their disobedience. Please do not presume that some major shift in God's work must now commence because of this present forty-year milestone. Although forty is a common time unit of trial and persecution, it is not the only one God has ever used. Recall that God kept Judah in exile for seventy years in Babylon before granting a national restoration. So if any of you might desire to jump upon "forty" as the only time of significance, for conservatism's sake, we would point you to the potential prospect of enduring *another thirty years* in this same configuration, if perchance God intends to carry out that exile for seventy years. Regardless of the timetable God is using to fulfill His perfect, ingenious plan, we simply desire to emphasize to you the history of these critical events in God's Church, and to ask you to contemplate what the fruits of the last forty years in God's church-at-large have revealed.

So much was said in 1974—and even within the first few years after that time—to demonize and to disparage Raymond Cole for his defense of the original doctrines. Back then, it seemed that the WCG was still very strong and powerful, and those few who resisted the new doctrinal changes were easily ridiculed for not being "mainstream." But in 1994, after twenty years, when the WCG began to implode as an organization and many began to exit because of even *more gross* doctrinal changes, suddenly, Raymond Cole's actions did not seem so totally unqualified. Then, fast-forward another twenty years hence and witness the bad fruits of confusion and abuse manifested by many of the splinter groups who formed in the 1990s and beyond, and now more than ever, the existence *and resilience* of this remnant fellowship over all these years begins to look quite plausible, and even fresh. Oh, how the passage of time can make a huge difference in our perspectives about these historical facts.

So, dear friends, as you prepare to observe once again the one-and-only Holy Day of Pentecost on Monday, May 25—and no matter how many or how few years you have been keeping that correct day—be sure to pause and think about the significance of Raymond Cole's act of faith *in standing fast* in the face of majority ridicule in 1974. Think about how God provided the blessing to preserve His revealed Truth through a small and much-maligned remnant group back then, and how blessed we are still to be persisting in that faithful worship today, forty years hence.

## **New Moon**

The new moon, Sivan (third month), begins Monday, May 18. The new moon day is Tuesday, May 19.

## **Feast of Tabernacles Scheduling**

We are beginning preparation for the Feast of Tabernacles, so we need to know as soon as possible if any will be attending at a different Feast site than usual. We soon must begin work on the scheduling of emcees, those who give opening and closing prayers, and the music programs at both sites. Knowing in advance how many will attend each site enables us to print enough schedules, secure a music program, etc. It seems there will be a much larger group attending at the Tennessee site this fall, so it is important that we get a reasonable head count to make sure all facets of the Feast run smoothly. If any of you have considered attending the Yachats site, this would be a good year to make the trip. We thank you in advance for your help.

## **Holy Day**

Pentecost..... Monday, May 25

## **Trip Schedule**

### **Mr. Jon Brisby**

May 16. .... Mansfield, Massachusetts  
May 23, 25. .... Lausanne, Switzerland  
June 27. .... (Camp Tejas) Maryville, Tennessee  
July 4... Appleby-in-Westmoorland, Cumbria, England

### **Mr. David Brandenburg**

May 25. .... Elkhart, Indiana  
June 27. .... (Camp Tejas) Maryville, Tennessee  
July 4... (Camp Tejas) Maryville, Tennessee

## Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-JB 163	03-19-15	04-25-15	Prepare for Old Age and Death
WSE-RC 59-53	04-09-15	05-02-15	Despair or Glory, Which? #53 Habakkuk Chapter 3 #23
WSE-JB 138-29	04-09-15	05-09-15	The Family Handbook #29 Child Rearing #1
WSE-RC 59-54	04-09-15	05-16-15	Despair or Glory, Which? #54 Habakkuk Chapter 3 #24
WSE-RC 59-55	05-07-15	05-23-15	Despair or Glory, Which? #55 Habakkuk Chapter 3 #25
Pentecost Sermons	04-16-15	05-25-15	—
WSE-JB 138-30	05-07-15	05-30-15	The Family Handbook #30 Child Rearing #2
WSE-RC 59-56	05-07-15	06-06-15	Despair or Glory, Which? #56 Habakkuk Chapter 3 #26
WSE-RC 59-57	05-28-15	06-13-15	Despair or Glory, Which? #57 Habakkuk Chapter 3 #27

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby