

## Announcement Letter March 2017

Dear Brethren:

This is the last full calendar month before we enter the Passover season, and the last chance for us to address all of you in a mailing before we celebrate the Passover and Feast of Unleavened Bread together in small convocations. Many of you are feeling pressures and influences vying to distract you from the spiritual priorities you embraced at baptism. Those negative forces upon your minds right now are permitted by God for reason, and He is eager for you to make correct choices under pressure to prove that your love for Him is deep and abiding, not shallow and insipid. We are all facing challenges in one way or another—some in very extreme measures—and those invisible enemies are clawing at us, trying to discourage and to defeat. This remnant ministry and support staff are still just as committed to your spiritual well-being as ever before, and you are all very much loved and appreciated for your important roles in God's plan. Nothing that really matters has changed one iota. We stand with you in solidarity as ones who love the faith God delivered through Jesus Christ, His precious Son. We are here for you to help in any way we can. Please never, ever doubt our resolve to defend that Truth, and likewise to aid and inspire you to achieve your goals. No matter what, you are each worthy of our respect and our personal sacrifice for you. We really do love you.

In keeping with preparation for the Holy Day season, the following Spiritual Principle was first published in the *Announcement Letter* for March 2009. Hopefully, a reminder eight years hence will be of some value. We pray that every one of you will complete your physical, as well as your spiritual, preparation for this Passover, and that you will emerge renewed to carry forward and complete your course until the return of the new King.

### **Spiritual Principle—Unleavened Bread for Passover**

For the upcoming Passover, those of you who are isolated from most other brethren and unable to assemble with one of our larger groups will be making choices in preparing your Passover service. In areas where there are several members gathered together, a lead man or elder will be making necessary provisions. One decision required is a choice of unleavened bread to be used to represent the body of Jesus Christ for this solemn service.

This may not be a principle which some of you may have ever heard emphasized before, but hopefully it will resonate with you nonetheless. Given the recent sermons you have received confirming the faith once delivered about proper food—including Mr. Armstrong's admonition to cook from scratch—how might this apply to your choice for unleavened bread for the upcoming Passover service? What would be a more fitting representation of the body of Jesus Christ, a factory-made, store-bought matzah, or homemade unleavened bread?

Some will immediately leap upon this and claim I am now creating a "new doctrine." Not at all. I am not saying that God will not accept the sacrifice of your Passover if you do not make unleavened bread from scratch. There may be a number of legitimate reasons that this is simply impossible, like our members who are in prison and are greatly blessed to get *any* unleavened bread at all—that from a sealed package being the only kind permitted—or perhaps a disabled member who literally is not physically capable of preparing homemade flatbread. In such cases, factory-made bread is certainly acceptable. But what about for the majority of us? Do you really think God would not prefer we take the extra effort to make wholesome unleavened bread for the Passover?

Is this a new concept? Mr. Raymond Cole may not have chosen to publish the principle as I am now doing, but the Eugene, Oregon, congregation has used homemade unleavened bread in the local Passover service for decades, perhaps even back to the very first Passover kept as a remnant body in 1975. Here traditionally, the pastor's wife has prepared that bread. Mrs. Raymond Cole was the one who did so for many years. My own wife assumed that responsibility once Mr. Cole died in 2001. Mr. Cole surely felt this was a minor issue compared to the more serious problems of faith and continuity facing God's people since the apostasy of 1974. But I hope more of you may have matured spiritually enough since then to be able to receive some advanced instruction now, even in some of these finer points.

Have you ever stopped to think about that matzah many of you buy in the stores? Many areas do not carry Jewish matzahs at all, or if you can find them, the selection is quite limited. From what kind of flour are they made? Is it whole grain flour, or is it white flour? If we have always been taught not to eat white flour because it is perverted and denuded of its natural, healthful components as God made it, why would we think white-flour matzahs are any exception? Does being "unleavened" somehow nullify the other principles? Now that you have had it brought to your attention, are you really willing to represent Christ's broken body with a perverted, white-flour matzah? We should really not be eating them during the Feast of Unleavened Bread at all, but we *certainly* should not use them at the Passover service. If you insist upon using a factory-made matzah, at least use a truly whole grain matzah. They do make them, although it may be difficult to confirm the manufacturing

process and to be certain the labeling is not misleading. Is it truly 100% whole grain flour, or does it just have a percentage of "good" flour mixed in with white flour? Are there other preservatives included? One brand we can get here in Oregon is named *Streit's*. The ingredients are, "unbleached whole wheat flour, water." For a store-bought matzah, this is a good one. But it is still not as good by comparison to making your own unleavened bread.

But isn't it laborious and difficult to make unleavened bread from scratch? Surely not for an experienced cook, but what if you do not know anything about cooking? To answer this question, I would like to share a personal story which may be of help. Last year, in anticipation of Passover and because this issue was on my mind, I decided to try making unleavened bread myself. I have never had any real cooking experience, and I barely know how to function in a kitchen. But I used the unleavened barley bread recipe from the church cookbook, and without any outside help, I followed the instructions. It was simple. It was quick and easy, and the bread turned out just fine. In fact, we used that bread for the Passover service in the location where I was presiding that year. What is my point? If I can make suitable unleavened bread, *anyone* can do it! Here is the recipe I used—the same one used each year to make the Passover bread for the Eugene assembly:

### **UNLEAVENED BARLEY BREAD**

1-1/4 c. barley flour	2 T. olive oil
1/4 tsp. salt	1/3 c. water

Mix all ingredients together to form a dough ball. Break off pieces the size of a large marble and roll out between waxed paper. Place on greased cookie sheet and bake at 350° F. until lightly browned around the edges.

When you think about it, is it just possible God may be more pleased with a little extra effort to represent His Son's broken body with unleavened bread certified to be good because you made it yourself? Something to consider.

### **New Moon**

The new moon, Nisan (first month), begins Monday evening, March 27. The new moon day is Tuesday, March 28.

## Holy Days

Appropriate preparations for these days should begin:

Passover. . . . .	Sunday (evening), April 9
Night to Be Much Observed. . . . .	Monday, April 10
1st Holy Day—Days of Unleavened Bread. . . . .	Tuesday, April 11
2nd Holy Day—Days of Unleavened Bread. . . . .	Monday, April 17

## 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.

## Trip Schedule

### Mr. Jon Brisby

March 11. . . . .	Seville, Spain
March 18. . . . .	Lancaster, Lancashire, United Kingdom
April 9, 10, 11. . . . .	Mansfield, Massachusetts
April 15, 17, 22. . . . .	Maryville, Tennessee

### Mr. Robert Litz

April 9, 10, 11. . . . .	Stephenville, Texas
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## Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-JWB 22-156-26F	01-26-17	02-25-17	Fund. of Belief #26: Worldly Holidays: Birthdays
CL2-RC 141	02-16-17	03-04-17	Principles of Christian Living (Series 2): Humility #4
WSE-JWB 193	02-16-17	03-11-17	Pre-Passover Exam: I Hate My Life
CL2-RC 142	02-16-17	03-18-17	Principles of Christian Living (Series 2): Humility #5
CL2-RC 143	03-09-17	03-25-17	Principles of Christian Living (Series 2): Humility #6
WSE-JWB 195	03-09-17	04-01-17	The Brazen Serpent on the Pole
CL2-RC 144	03-09-17	04-08-17	Principles of Christian Living (Series 2): Humility #7
WSE-JWB 22-157-26	03-30-17	04-15-17	Fund. of Belief #26: Worldly Holidays: Christmas

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby