

Announcement Letter September 2021

Dear Brethren:

God's autumn Holy Day season has arrived, and not a minute too soon. While the deceived peoples of this world thrash about—seeking to enrich themselves or else simply trying to survive—we are among the few who understand the real purpose for human existence, and the incredible future that awaits mankind upon this earth. Those of you called to that knowledge have the glorious opportunity to celebrate before God in these holy convocations that are just at the doorstep. In spite of the increasing pressures that you feel in all aspects of life, and in spite of the ominous clouds gathering that foreshadow coming tribulations, God helping us, we will focus upon His holy things and rejoice with glad hearts in His presence during these commanded Feasts.

This month also happens to mark the twentieth anniversary of the death of Mr. Raymond Cole, who died two days before Atonement in 2001. There are so many things that could be said and so many memories rehearsed, but most of all, we can all be thankful that Raymond Cole left us an indelible legacy that is still very strong today. It was not a legacy of his own making—and it was never a monument to himself—but simply the preservation of the work that God Himself did through Mr. Herbert Armstrong. Through the devotion and personal sacrifices of Raymond Cole, a remnant church emerged out of the Worldwide Church of God in 1975 to preserve the original teachings of Jesus Christ. For twenty-six years, Mr. Cole served us all by providing a safe haven for those who valued the original teachings of the Radio Church of God as being the revealed Truth of God. Now, twenty years after Mr. Cole's death, we still persist in holding fast to *those very same doctrines* without allowing any perversion of that Way of Life. This history proves that Church of God, The Eternal was never a personality cult of Raymond Cole. It was never about a man, whether Herbert Armstrong or Raymond Cole. It was always about the Truth revealed by Jesus Christ to a chosen people. The human instruments were only that—tools in the hand of God to perform His divine Work. Many of you today never met Raymond Cole in person before he died. And yet, you are all part of the continuing legacy that God created through him. May God allow us to continue to be part of that promised Body—the Church—that will prevail in some way until the very return of Jesus Christ.

As usual, in preparation for attending these Feasts—especially the Feast of Tabernacles—a few reminders are in order to make those gatherings a blessing for all. To that end, we are once again reprinting some guidelines that we hope will be of value to you.

We pray that all of you will have a marvelous experience, and that you will be lights within this dark world while you are gathered together to honor God.

Spiritual Principle—Moderation at the Feast (Reprinted from September 2007)

We are all in the final stages of our preparation to keep God's Feasts this month, and what a blessing it will be to gather together in our largest convocations of the year to observe the Feast of Tabernacles in those designated places where God has placed His name. If we have dutifully saved our second tithe as commanded by God, we should be in position to attend that Feast, and once there, to enjoy a true foretaste of the coming Kingdom of God. God wants His children to celebrate and to enjoy good things at this time of year, to picture the blessings to come when Jesus Christ will rule on this earth. So God wants us to partake of special physical blessings we might not have the chance to enjoy as much at other times of the year.

And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul [longs for], for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth: and thou shalt eat there before the LORD thy God, and thou shalt rejoice, thou, and thine household (Deuteronomy 14:26).

We must be very careful, however, not to allow this spirit of commanded celebration to turn into excess. If we are not very careful, this can happen to any one of us. Many of you may have more opportunity to eat, drink, and be merry at the Feast than at any other time. And with God's specific command to celebrate, it is easy to view this as a license to overindulge. But that is not true. We must be very careful not to allow the abuse of food, alcohol, and the spirit of celebration to undermine our Feast experience. Remember, we are to be picturing the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ. His Kingdom will not be one of drunken, gluttonous revelers. At all times, and maybe especially at the Feast, we need to remember the overriding principles of moderation incumbent upon true Christians.

Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand (Philippians 4:4–5).

For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another (Galatians 5:13).

These principles are important for us to remember, if we want to please God and to enjoy the kind of Feast that will engender good memories and an example to others.

With this in mind, please be careful about the use of alcohol. Some in times past have used second tithe to stock up on beer, wine, and spirits like they were sponsoring a college fraternity party. It is one thing if you are truly having a get-together and offering alcohol in moderation to your guests, but be careful not to generate a worldly image of excess. Not only must we be considerate of church members who are former alcoholics and do not need that influence (there are more than you might know), but we also do not want to create a bad impression for the people of the world around us.

Be careful also about the consumption of food. We might have the opportunity to eat a greater abundance of rich food at the Feast, but too much of "a good thing" will take its toll on our health. It goes without saying that even though we are away from home, we should be striving to eat good food and avoid those things that God considers corrupt according to His dietary laws. All too many in past years have had to ask to be anointed during the Feast for the onset of illness resulting in part from bad food choices and overindulgence.

Remember also that necessary sleep is a requirement for good health. We may be tempted to violate this principle at the Feast in order to enjoy as much fellowship as possible with our dear brethren. But we cannot enjoy the Feast fully if we are deprived of sleep, since we will not be attentive during the services, and our immune systems will be weakened, making us vulnerable to illness. If we keep all of these principles in mind and use good self-discipline, we will make it possible to have the kind of Feast experience God wants for us.

Holy Days

Feast of Trumpets	September 7
Day of Atonement	September 16
Feast of Tabernacles	September 21–27
Last Great Day	September 28

Feast of Tabernacles—Correction

Please take note of this correction: The weekly Sabbath service on September 18, will be held in **Maryville, TN (church property at 2203 Wilkinson Pike—1:00 P.M.)**, and in Otter Rock, OR (1:00 P.M.), since the Feast of Tabernacles will begin the evening of Monday, September 20. Please make your plans and reservations accordingly.

Feast Site Addresses

In Otter Rock, OR, the Feast will be held at the Otter Crest Convention Center, located at 301 Otter Crest Dr., Otter Rock, OR, 97369.

In Townsend, TN, the Feast will be held at The Barn Event Center of the Smokies, 7264 East Lamar Alexander Pkwy.

If you need further information, please call the church office at (541) 344-8880.

New Moons

The new moon, Tishri (seventh month), begins Monday evening, September 6. The new moon day is Tuesday, September 7 (Feast of Trumpets).

The new moon, Heshvan (eighth month), begins Wednesday evening, October 6. The new moon day is Thursday, October 7.

Monthly Letter

The *Monthly Letter* for September will be another timely archive letter from Mr. Jean Aviolat, written for October of 1985.

Trip Schedule

Jon W. Brisby

September 4, 7 Malbuisson, France
September 16 Maryville, Tennessee
September 20–23 Townsend, Tennessee
September 24–28 Otter Rock, Oregon

Robert Burke

September 20–23 Otter Rock, Oregon
September 24–28 Townsend, Tennessee

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-RC 66-8	07-29-21	09-04-21	Where Is Christ Since His Personal Days in the Flesh? #8
Holy Day	07-29-21	09-07-21	Trumpets Sermons
WSE-JWB 225-40	08-19-21	09-11-21	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #40
Holy Day	07-29-21	09-16-21	Atonement Sermon
WSE-JWB 261	08-19-21	09-18-21	Recent History of Ministerial Judgments
Holy Days	09/20–09/28	—	Feast of Tabernacles
WSE-RC 66-9	08-19-21	10-02-21	Where Is Christ Since His Personal Days in the Flesh? #9
WSE-JWB 225-41	09-09-21	10-09-21	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #41
WSE-JWB 225-42	09-09-21	10-16-21	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #42

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby