

Announcement Letter January 2022

Dear Brethren:

As the old calendar year turns over once again, we look ahead with interest and curiosity concerning events to come, being all the more aware of our absolute dependence upon God for our preservation and for our ultimate salvation. As this world becomes darker and more foreboding, we are reminded of our need for God's miraculous intervention to shield us from dangers, to grant to us His wisdom in making personal decisions, and His guidance to show us when to act and where to go—at those specific times when we actually need to make a move of some kind.

As much as these considerations apply to every one of us individually, they also apply to this ministry as we seek to fulfill our responsibilities in safeguarding and serving God's Church. There is no power in us humanly to be able to act in the name of Jesus Christ in order to make correct decisions. To do what is really needed for the edification of this remnant body, we depend absolutely upon God's dynamic intervention to lead, guide, direct, and inspire. Without that, we are of all individuals most desolate. But if indeed God is involved in the activities of this little remnant assembly, then you have every reason for confidence going forward, no matter how dark the storm clouds may appear upon our horizons.

With that in mind, we are faced with another immediate change that requires our adjustment and flexible response. As you will see in the following announcements, we are sad to report the death of Mr. Richard Litz, one of our longtime ministers in Maryville, Tennessee. Richard was a devoted servant to the church and absolutely loved to help the brethren in every way possible. After his retirement from his tradesman's vocation as a master electrician, he—along with his devoted wife, Julia—applied his seemingly tireless energies to serving the church, and that included not only his spiritual speaking, writing, and counseling duties, but also in offering his practical know-how to fix, repair, or upgrade the homes and properties of many brethren that he and Julia would visit throughout each year. Richard just loved to work, and his work was a blessing to us all for many years. It was because of Richard and Julia choosing to settle in Maryville, TN, in their retirement years that we now have church-owned facilities there to continue to serve the body. Now that Richard is gone, Julia will need our collective support and assistance, and we intend to provide all that we can for her. She and her husband have earned our thanks and our loyalty for all of their years of service, and we intend to show our sincere gratitude.

But this means that we now have only two ordained ministers in North America at present, not only because of the death of Richard most recently, but also his brother, Robert, early in 2021. These developments mean that once again we look to God for divine guidance, to provide the answers that we need in order to know how to plan for serving the church into the future.

Over the course of the last forty-seven years, we have experienced many changes—including traumatic events that could easily have spelled our demise—and yet God has provided in every single instance and has never left us wanting. For that reason, we have absolute confidence that He will continue to open up new avenues to provide the structure and leadership that we need to continue to feed God's sheep. We are confident—not arrogant—because we have continued to defend the revealed doctrines of Jesus Christ over all of these decades, and God is faithful to defend, lead, guide, and inspire those who show real devotion to His revealed Way of Life. The proof that we are part of the promise made by Jesus Christ—that the gates of hell will never prevail against His Church (Matthew 16:18)—will be if we are permitted to continue to finish this Work that began under Mr. Raymond Cole in early 1975 to minister to a remnant body of true believers. We are holding to that original revelation without compromise, and we are not aware of any other organized remnant that is doing so. God's real Truth will never fall to the ground. We have that assurance. And therefore, rather than fretting over the significant holes left by the deaths of important human servants, we stand confidently and patiently waiting for God to show us how the next chapters of service will begin to unfold.

The sincere prayers and support of every one of you is a key part of our confidence today. Though small in numbers, many of the members of this remnant body around the globe are strong in Spirit, and that manifestation is a very bright light in this very dark world. If we continue to do what God requires of us, that light will burn even brighter in months and years to come. But it takes our collective faith—real belief and confidence—to wait patiently for God to show us His will and to provide the answers that we need to keep doing our assigned duties in His service. He is faithful. God helping us, we also will be faithful in holding fast. These are the times when God's assurances can provide real comfort and confidence to face the challenges that are before us. May God grant to each one of you the power and conviction to remain stalwart in defending that revealed Truth in your own life, and thereby to continue to be an important part of this blessed remnant assembly of the true Church of God.

New Moon

The new moon, Adar I (twelfth month), begins Tuesday evening, February 1. The new moon day is Wednesday, February 2.

Deaths

Our minister in the Midwest/Southeast, Mr. Richard Litz, died the week of December 5 from a weak heart and respiratory distress. He worked tirelessly with the brethren in his responsibilities for 52 years up until to his death. Mr. Litz was 80 years of age at the time of his death. He is survived by his wife, Julia, and their four daughters, Angela, Amanda, Ramona, and Katrina. We offer them and their extended families our sincere condolences.

Mr. John Disney of Batavia, OH, died Thursday, December 23, having succumbed to a serious case of Covid. John was 84 years of age at the time of his death. He and his wife, Sue, have been members of Church of God, The Eternal for the past ten years. He is survived by Sue, their three sons and their extended families. We offer our sincere condolences.

Feast of Tabernacles—OR

We now have a contract with the owners of the Otter Crest Convention Center in Otter Rock, OR, for the Feast of Tabernacles this fall. So anyone wanting to be on the Oregon Coast for the Feast can start making their reservations. The Inn at Otter Crest has changed hands (not the convention center), so if you want to stay at the Inn, you will need to contact them for rates. You can find information and pictures about the Inn on their website: www.innatottercrest.com.

For those of you making your reservations for the Feast this year, please take note that the Sabbath before the Feast (October 18) will be held in the Otter Crest Convention Center. There will be no services in Eugene that Sabbath.

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-JWB 225-46	12-09-21	01-01-22	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #46
WSE-RC 54-4	12-09-21	01-08-22	What Is the Purpose of Authority? #4
WSE-JWB 225-47	12-09-21	01-15-22	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #47
WSE-RC 54-5	12-30-21	01-22-22	What Is the Purpose of Authority? #5
WSE-JWB 225-48	12-30-21	01-29-22	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #48
WSE-RC 54-6	12-30-21	02-05-22	What Is the Purpose of Authority? #6
WSE-RC 54-7	01-20-21	02-12-22	What Is the Purpose of Authority? #7

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby