

# Church of God, The Eternal

P. O. Box 775  
Eugene, Oregon 97440  
[www.cogeternal.org](http://www.cogeternal.org)

The late Raymond C. Cole  
Founding Pastor  
Jon W. Brisby  
Pastor, Director

Offices in:  
United States  
Philippines  
Switzerland

## Announcement Letter August 2004

Dear Brethren:

Time seems to speed by so quickly at this time of year, especially when we are all working to prepare for the upcoming fall Holy Day season. That intense preparation along with an aggressive ministerial travel schedule since spring has kept us very challenged indeed. But what a pleasure to stop and take the time to address the church at large once again in this monthly writing. Your example of continuity in the face of so many personal trials and difficulties in this world is a testament to the power of God's Holy Spirit working actively in your lives. We greet you as the beloved children of God, and pray always for your spiritual growth in the richness of our Heavenly Father's loving care. What a privilege to have the chance to address the faithful children of God in this remnant body who are proving day by day their love for God's immutable revelation of Truth.

At the same time, the extreme pressures of the world—and especially the deceptive attacks of our adversary—have also prompted some sad choices for a certain few that we know and love. With the intensity of those attacks upon us all, it is actually amazing that the majority of us have still remained so resolute through it all, and that we continue to enjoy such amazing peace and unity. That can only be a fruit of God's power working to establish us in that common bond. Without His miraculous preservation, we would all be fodder for the enemy. Yet, even when one of those who have once walked with us turns hateful toward the Truth, it is traumatic to say the least. In relationship to the scope of this scattered membership around the world, it is only very few who have separated from us in the last year, but that does not diminish our sense of loss by any means. None of us are involved in a game. God has called us into a training process with the highest of stakes. Being among those called out of this world and given His priceless revelation, our struggle is one of life and death. Making a mistake that takes us into offense and deception is a potentially deadly choice which might easily result in our loss of eternal life. How we grieve to witness even one of our beloved brethren make such a devastating choice. We can only pray that God will still help them learn vital lessons and humble themselves before it is too late.

Since the Feast of Tabernacles last year, there have been two separate instances of former brethren seeking to influence our members with malignity and accusation against the ministry. These attacks used e-mail to send hateful communications to a number of our members in the United States whose electronic addresses they possessed. Those of you who received such messages know of whom we speak. Some of you may therefore wonder why this ministry did not take aggressive action to publicly counter these attacks and mark them by name from the pulpit, or perhaps within this *Announcement Letter*. That is always a potential option, if the threat is deemed serious. The faithful shepherds of Jesus Christ are mandated to protect the flock from wolves. A hireling cares not for the sheep and allows them to be destroyed and scattered, while a legitimate servant of the True Shepherd will fight to protect those little ones from harm (John 10:11–13).

If the threat from these particular individuals had been deemed serious—with the potential of causing real doubts in the minds of our members—it is assured we would have taken action. But in these two instances, it was felt the obvious error in thinking and confusion of thought was quite apparent in their own writings, and clear evidence of a wrong spirit. It needed no ministerial rebuttal to point out that Satanic influence. We therefore decided not to give any credibility to them at all by even responding.

If you are one who ever receives such communications, we highly encourage you also to ignore them, and not even provide them the satisfaction of a reply. Those who have given themselves over to a hateful and defiant spirit crave attention. They love to debate, and it is counted by them as a moral victory just to get one of us engaged in a tit-for-tat exchange. The best way to send them a strong message for their ultimate good is to refuse all communication with them. That is the command of God to each one of us as true Christians (1 Corinthians 5:11; 1 Timothy 6:3–5; 2 Timothy 3:1–5; 2 Thessalonians 3:6–7; 2 John 10–11). That contentious spirit hates to be ignored more than almost anything. If you truly love them, you will obey God's instruction of love. It is those who foster false love—worldly love—who insist on maintaining contact with those who are bitter and hateful. For those of you who use e-mail, if you receive such a contact, it is also recommended that you adjust your software settings to block future mail from those particular parties. Modern technology can be a useful tool, and it has certainly provided a cheap and convenient means for brethren to communicate. But there is also a down-side since that same medium also can be abused easily by those who despise God's people.

If any of you have a question about the proper way to deal with a particular issue either now or in the future, please feel free to contact us and we will be happy to provide guidance. It often can be confusing to know what to do when we are faced with a difficult situation, especially when it relates to a former member whom we love dearly. There are many of God's called sheep who are yet scattered upon the mountains in the wake of the apostasy which

continues to rage. We want to be there to help every one of them whom God sends. That has been our mission for thirty years now. What a blessing it is to help recover even one out of the darkness of apostasy. But we also must be able to recognize when someone has turned beyond our current ability to help them, and be willing to place them in God's hands until they learn necessary lessons. If we remember that God is actively accomplishing His will in dealing with the church, we can always take comfort in the final outcome of His perfect work. Although we may not be able to reach certain ones we would like to for a time, we can always keep them in our prayers, beseeching God to grant mercy for repentance toward that ultimate goal of Sonship in His glorious Kingdom.

## **Camp Tejas**

We would like to express a special thank you to Mr. David Brandenburg, Mrs. Jackie Wakefield, and their volunteer assistants, Mr. Duane Garland, Ms. Angela Silvers, Ms. Lisa Sainato, and Mrs. Carolyn Fowler, for their personal sacrifice to make Camp Tejas a success again this year. From all accounts, the teens had a wonderful ten-day summer camp experience, made possible by much hard work of the organizing staff.

It is good to remind everyone again that this project has never been an official church program, but has certainly been supported and encouraged by the ministry. It is to those volunteer church members who have sacrificed so much that we all owe a debt of gratitude. We must never take for granted that there will be another camp opportunity next year. It is all according to the willingness of those devoted volunteers to continue making that extraordinary sacrifice. Mr. David Brandenburg and Mrs. Jackie Wakefield have been the sponsors, organizers, and driving force behind the project for three years now, and the church will certainly continue to support them as the principals as long as they choose to continue that volunteer service.

Also, the Camp Tejas staff would like to thank the volunteers, parents, and brethren who helped through their support of time, donations, and goodies to make the camp possible. Your willing support is very much appreciated.

## **Prayer Requests**

[Omitted for confidentiality]

[Omitted for confidentiality]

## **Blessings of Brethren**

[Omitted for confidentiality]

## **Death**

It saddens us to announce the death of Mrs. Lillian Clark, who died Sabbath, July 24, after a long struggle with bone cancer. She was 85 years of age. Her cheery personality will be remembered and missed by all who knew her. We offer our sincere condolences to her family.

## **Returning Used Cassette Tapes**

Those driving to the Feast may bring cassette tapes that are no longer being used. We will once again transport them back to Eugene from the Feast sites. In Townsend, Tennessee, Mr. Bill McCammon will oversee collecting and boxing tapes for shipment. Duplication of Feast sermon tapes requires an enormous number of new cassettes and these returned tapes help to offset the cost.

## **Holy Days**

Feast of Trumpets . . . . . Thursday, September 16

Atonement . . . . . Sabbath, September 25

Feast of Tabernacles . . . . . September 30–October 6

Last Great Day . . . . . October 7

## Trip Schedule

September 16 (Trumpets)	Modesto, California
September 30–October 2 (Feast of Tabernacles)	Newport, Oregon
October 4–October 7 (Feast of Tabernacles)	Townsend, Tennessee

## Tape Schedule

Tape #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-JB 22-65-22E	07-08-04	08-07-04	Fund. of Belief: Church Government and Administration
WSE-RC 23-2	07-22-04	08-14-04	Hope: Purpose, Potential, and Power #2
WSE-RC 23-3	07-22-04	08-21-04	Hope: Purpose, Potential, and Power #3
WSE-RC 23-4	08-05-04	08-28-04	Hope: Purpose, Potential, and Power #4
WSE-JB 64	08-05-04	09-04-04	Why Ministers Fail
WSE-RC 23-5	08-19-04	09-11-04	Hope: Purpose, Potential, and Power #5

---

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby