

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter July 2005

Dear Brethren:

Greetings again to God's dearest children, in all places around the world where He has preserved you in these last days. This letter is being composed en route from London to San Francisco, after another uplifting Pentecost celebration with our French-speaking brothers and sisters of Switzerland and France, and then an inspiring visit with our scattered brethren in the United Kingdom during the week thereafter. What a privilege it was to observe those weekly and annual Sabbaths with such devoted members of God's Church whom we see so infrequently because of distance. What a blessing that God granted another safe and uneventful journey over so many miles by plane, train, and automobile from Eugene, Oregon, to Yverdon, Switzerland; Grenoble and Paris, France; Southampton, Penrith, and London, England; and then back home again. May we never take for granted God's incredible mercy to protect and keep us during these long excursions to support and serve the remnant of God.

Yesterday was the beginning of the English celebration of *Trafalgar 200*, the two-hundredth anniversary of Lord Horatio Nelson's decisive naval victory against the combined force of French and Spanish ships off the coast of Spain near Cape Trafalgar in 1805. The celebration at Portsmouth, England included a naval review by Queen Elizabeth II of one hundred sixty-seven ships gathered together from thirty-five countries, with all the pageantry and splendor one might expect from the British. This was the first such event since 1977, and was attended by over 250,000 people, as well as being covered live on national television. Why was the battle of Trafalgar so important, and what does it have to do with God's people today?

One must remember that by 1805, Napoleon Bonaparte had successfully conquered much of continental Europe, and was very intent on invading the British Isles. Toward that end he had joined his naval forces with the Spanish fleet in hopes of taking control of the English Channel, paving the way for an invasion by French army forces onto the shores of

England. Napoleon's combined naval force had gathered at the port of Cadiz, Spain, and this was where the British fleet under Lord Nelson sailed to engage them. Although Nelson himself died in the great conflict which followed, the battle of Trafalgar became a decisive victory for England against her enemies, and a crushing defeat for Napoleon. After this single event, the British Navy ruled the seas of the world without equal for the next hundred years, and the threat to England and the Royal family was dispatched.

What is important for all of us to realize is that the victory at Trafalgar had nothing to do with good fortune, or even with the superior war tactics of Horatio Nelson, as most believe today. It was the direct intervention of God which gave Britain that decisive victory in 1805. Was this because the English were better or more deserving than the French? Not at all! It was because God made a promise to King David and to his sons:

Now therefore, O LORD God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father that which thou hast promised him, saying, There shall not fail thee a man in my sight to sit upon the throne of Israel . . . (2 Chronicles 6:16).

That original promise had been made by God to David in 2 Samuel 7:12–16. No matter how undeserving the sons of David became, God bound Himself to preserve that family dynasty through all generations because of David's faithfulness. Because God never lies, we know He is still fulfilling that promise today, even in these modern times. We have confidence, therefore, that the British royal family is the continuation of that very line of David, because no other dynasty in the world fits the profile of those Israelites who were to receive the birthright promises of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

No matter what the future brings to this earth in prophesied wars and political upheaval, God will preserve a physical descendant of David upon that throne, and it will be Jesus Christ Himself—also a son of David of the House of Judah—who will finally reign upon that very same throne forever as the last King of Israel.

This then is the real reason Britain gained such a decisive victory at Trafalgar two hundred years ago. No matter how much power Napoleon had amassed, and no matter how unstoppable he seemed to be at the time, it was never God's intent to allow him to overthrow the British Crown. Even Vice-Admiral Collingwood—second in command, and the one who chronicled the battle to his superiors at the British Admiralty after Nelson's death—seemed to understand the victory involved the divine intervention of God. Here are his words, as reported in *The Times* of London, Thursday, November 7, 1805:

. . . the conflict was severe; the enemy's ships were fought with a gallantry highly honourable to their Officers; but the attack on them was irresistible, and it pleased the Almighty Disposer of all events to grant his Majesty's arms a complete and glorious victory.

Another threat by a continental power of Europe would again challenge the sovereignty of the island kingdom of England in the Twentieth Century. But like Napoleon, Adolph Hitler discovered that it would never be God's will to allow the removal of that royal family from the throne of England, no matter how vulnerable they seemed to be at the time. And no matter what threats will certainly appear on the horizon in the future, the promise of God to King David will stand sure. What a glorious privilege to witness these promises of God continuing to come to pass and to have a proper context for world history—past, present, and future.

Excess Second Tithe

This is just a yearly reminder of the need for second tithe to cover administrative and facility costs for the Feast. We want to reserve adequate for an enjoyable and meaningful Feast. At the same time, we all must remember, to keep the Feast requires the rental of halls, transportation, aid to those who are deserving, etc. If we all contribute, the burden for each is relatively small. A huge thanks to those whose hearts and minds are willing. May God richly and abundantly bless you in all ways.

Second Tithe Requests

Please be reminded that requests for second tithe assistance for the Feast of Tabernacles need to be in by September 1. Any who need assistance should notify us in ample time.

Prayer Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Death

We are saddened to announce the death of Mrs. Perla Garcia of Cabanatuan City, Philippines. She died Tuesday, May 31, and was 71 years of age. She had been in a stroke-induced coma for a few months prior to her death. We extend our sincere condolences to her family and friends.

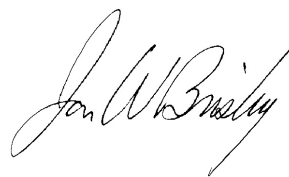
Trip Schedule

August 13	Baltimore, Maryland
August 20	Mansfield, Massachusetts

Tape Schedule

Tape #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-RC CL 2-23	06-16-05	07-09-05	Joy #3
WSE-JB 22-79-23G	06-16-05	07-16-05	Fund. of Belief #23G, Prophecy
WSE-JB 75	06-30-05	07-23-05	Blood, Water and the Spirit
WSE-RC CL 2-24	06-30-05	07-30-05	Joy #4
WSE-RC CL 2-25	07-14-05	08-06-05	Joy #5
WSE-JB 22-80-23H	07-14-05	08-13-05	Fund. of Belief #23H, Prophecy

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby