

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter May 1981

With the passing of April 1981, the Passover and Unleavened Bread Feast days became history. And what a time God afforded us.

Knowledge of and obedience to God's laws produces implicit and unbelievable happiness and joy. With David, we too can shout, "O, how love I thy law." God's ways are not only our meditation day and night, but they are the very foundation of our lives. With the passing of Passover and Unleavened Bread, we are now anxiously awaiting the advent of Pentecost. Next come the Fall Festivals. Always there is an anxious awaiting of the next event in the Calendar of events ordained by God. Even in the dead of winter, we become acutely aware of their absence. Thus, a growing anticipation of the privilege to rehearse them all once again the following year.

We have heard from the following areas:

Knoxville - Nashville, Tennessee: A small, but growing group met for Passover and Unleavened Bread. New members made the meetings especially meaningful. All were greatly blessed of God. As we continue to obey and grow in character, I am sure God will yet add to the number who are presently faithful. Our prayers are greatly needed.

Hawaii: Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Keohohina were blessed to have company again this year. Mr. and Mrs. Dressler and Gladys King spent the entire time with them. They were greatly blessed and afforded a most meaningful occasion. The weather was excellent. The fellowship, in Christ, is so significant to those who remain isolated for most of the year.

Eugene - Portland, Oregon: All went very well. Both spiritual and physical food were superb. I have received nothing but glowing reports of the occasion. Truly God does look down upon His own people who honor Him with faithful obedience.

There were in excess of 100 who attended the meetings. Small, yes, but each one is priceless in the sight of God.

All the other areas, throughout the country and world, I am sure, experienced equally meaningful and rewarding Spring Feasts. God is good to all His people.

I personally had the privilege to see the following:

Dallas, Texas area: Now, the second time in the history of this fledgling operation, God has opened the door for a small group there. Passover, the Night To Be Much Observed and the first High Day were observed in the small community of Wylie. It was so rewarding to see again some whom I had not seen in many years. Too, it was equally good to see and visit with some whom I had written to but had not had the opportunity to see personally. Then, there were those with whom I had not had any contact prior to this occasion.

What love and affection were shown. The Spirit of God certainly did move these people. We all were so blessed to be together. I am sure the inspiration will see us through until Pentecost time.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: From across the broad sweep of the Northeastern part of the United States came God's people to keep the last High Day of the Days of Unleavened Bread. The day was absolutely magnificent! In every way the people of God were enriched, blessed and inspired. There were in excess of 60 present. As in other areas, the addition of new members made the meeting especially meaningful. What a thrill to see other people regain their spiritual direction and life. Their own beaming faces attest to the joy and enthusiasm rekindled.

ARTICLES

Progress continues on the major work being done — The Gnostic Connection. Accompanying this letter is the last half of the sixth chapter. Currently work is progressing on the first half of the seventh chapter. Due to the length of the chapters, the seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth chapters will be divided — one half of each sent at a time. Chapter eleven will be a single month's issue. And the final chapter, number twelve, will be the Biblical outline of the subject. In all, this work should be completed (the writing, editing, proofing and printing) by the first or second month of 1982.

We are anxious to complete the work and commence on some of the other major issues which are beginning to surface. As God wills, these articles will be written to cover areas of major growth in spiritual understanding. All this progress will be undertaken with an acute eye for the basis of understanding — the faith once delivered. That premise will never be eliminated or forgotten.

We continue to look forward to receiving information from you, the brethren, about subjects which you feel will be helpful, both for yourselves and others who will also need the instruction. At present we are not attempting to marshal all the information into any form of schedule. There are months of work to be done on the book, The Gnostic Connection, yet. As this work nears completion, we will begin on other outlines.

NEW INTEREST

We continue to be greatly blessed. Several new letters are received each month. From this activity, a significant number have their faith renewed and make genuine and inspiring progress in reorienting themselves in the faith which they initially received. These contacts come from around the world. As of the present, the responses are pretty much scattered. When God wills to call sufficient in one location, it makes it possible to establish a small group meeting for the Sabbaths and the Holy Days. Such was the case with the Dallas, Texas area. They now are privileged to have a small gathering in that area where the original Truth can be taught. They are, indeed, greatly blessed. We are most thankful to God for them. Our prayers will certainly be with them.

PRAYER REQUESTS

[Omitted for confidentiality]

[Omitted for confidentiality]

FEAST OF TABERNACLES

Thank you for the magnificent way which you have received the news that the Feast will be observed in Eugene this year. Truly, the spirit of cooperation is abundantly manifest.

The Feast of Tabernacles should be the finest possible again this year. Being where God wants us to be makes all the difference. This year, more than ever, the emphasis will be on the primary reason for the Feast — the spiritual. As long as we emphasize that aspect of the Holy Days, I am sure God wills that a degree of the secondary — the physical — is acceptable and will Himself guide and bless in the realization of those objectives, too.

Detailed information relative to the Feast of Tabernacles will come in a future letter. Only generalized information will come from time to time until that complete coverage is given.

CURRENT EVENTS

Drought is going to be a major problem in many sections of this country, as well as the world. We must be praying about this situation as it affects our brothers and sisters in Christ. They will be counting on us. And it does appear that the severity of its beginning may be experienced by some this year. Unless major rainstorms are yet realized in many sections of the country in the next few weeks, the sobering effects of that drought can be guessed at only.

This, too, is the time of year for major storms across sections of the country. We must be praying about this situation, too. God has control of all the elements, Psalm 148. He hears our prayers. If we pray earnestly and do those things which are pleasing to God, I am sure our brethren in Christ will be blessed, regardless of what section of the country they live in.

TRIPS

Before long, just slightly over one month, Myra and I will again journey to Switzerland and France. We look forward to seeing all the brethren in those areas. God has abundantly blessed them as He has all of us. One of the great blessings is the addition of new members both in Lausanne and Grenoble.

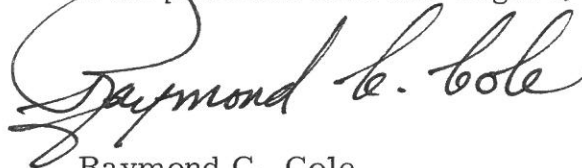
We will remain abroad for about one month. Pentecost services will be held in Lausanne, Switzerland — for all the members in Switzerland and France. The weekly Sabbaths will be split between Lausanne and Grenoble. Usually Mr. Aviolat has the schedule worked out when I arrive.

CONCLUSION

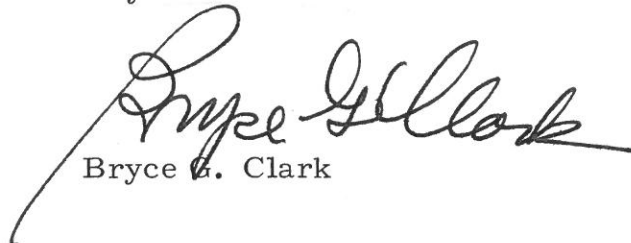
We receive so many kind and thoughtful comments from all the brethren. Thank you very much for them. We sincerely appreciate the encouragement and love. We continue to hope that we can be worthy of the service to which we have been called. We deeply desire to serve the Children of God. Thank you for allowing Him to work His will in you. Our love and affection always. Our prayers continue with and for you daily. Though we do not have opportunity to see you often, we do remember you affectionately daily. Because of separation, every contact is priceless.

Please take care and remain faithful. We will reap the reward promised if we endure to the end.

With profound love and regard,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raymond C. Cole".

Raymond C. Cole

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bryce G. Clark".

Bryce G. Clark