

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter August, 1982

We have returned! Although tiring, the trip was both inspirational and helpful to us. More about the trip at the appropriate time.

We sincerely hope that the summer has been a good one for you all. Despite the many adversities people around the world are experiencing, the chosen of God overall are most unusually blessed. It is so reassuring to see the aggressive and beneficent intervention of God on the behalf of His own chosen people. If we continue undaunted in our faith, the expectations of minds and hearts will soon be realized. God does not always answer immediately, but He does answer before it is "too late." Continue to trust Him and never give in to the temptation of despondency, accusation or change. He knows our needs and the limits of what we can bear.

CURRENT EVENTS:

On the surface, no earth-shaking events have transpired in the past several weeks. But, what you see manifested and overtly emphasized through the media is NOT the real story. Usually, such events are designed to mesmerize the populace while calculated purposes are deceptively unfolding. Remember, Satan, the god of this world, is responsible for all that is transpiring — as expressly allowed by God. And the machination by which he has brought to pass all conditions and circumstances of this world is DECEPTION. Deception: the condition of the entire world. This world cannot read the events of the times. Only with certain knowledge and at the appropriate time will they be understood.

Deceptively, worldwide devastating conditions are developing. Until God elects to make the specifics of these events understandable to us, we must grow spiritually strong, replete with faith and acceptable masters of our own lives — possessors of character. Then, WATCH. Watch all things which are happening, but with specific emphasis on events within the Church of God of the last days. These are the instructions of Jesus Christ.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

The faith of the righteous will be tried. And what is faith? The evidence of things which are not seen. What is not seen? The Truth of God. It is

the time for us to certify our conviction and belief — to make sure nothing dissuades us from the Truth which we accepted and for which we were baptized. Those circumstances which will try our faith are: economics, joblessness, conflicts with others, unfulfilled personal expectations, family problems, poor health, pressure to conform to ways of the world, and a host of others.

The weak will crumble under the pressure of trial. The faithfully convicted and dedicated servants will grow stronger by those same trials. Only the results will tell, each of us, into which category we fall.

ARTICLES:

Good progress is being made on the final preparation of the article: The Sacred Name — Is It Sacred Or Mystical? We are attempting to have it ready for distribution at the Feast of Tabernacles. Besides the typing, proofing, and other work related to the preparation of the article there is much routine work which the secretaries must do weekly just to keep current with their workloads. Banking, mail reading, literature requests, correspondence typing, filing, Monthly Letter typing, Announcement Letter typing, proofreading, business arrangements, reception responsibilities, and a host of other related duties. Being reasonable with time restrictions, it is obvious that we cannot produce the article before Feast time. Besides, we feel it will be a very good presentation for the Feast.

As Mr. Clark mentioned last month, early preparations for the upcoming article on Divine Healing are underway. Before this article can be done, much reading and studying is mandatory.

WORK — GENERAL:

Much of the required work is presently completed on the next section of the Biblical outline of Babylonianism. At the present time, I have not found opportunity to complete the portion I want to submit. Please be patient. The two of us are working just about as fast and hard as we possibly can. If desire alone had been sufficient to do the job it would have been completed long ago. We want to get these things completed but we must be realistic with all time restrictions.

As opportunity affords itself, work has already begun on preparation of sermons for the Feast of Tabernacles. There simply is no time to make such preparations when the Feast is in progress. That is the time we want to spend with those whom we do not get to see or visit often, if at all, throughout the year.

To make the Feast as meaningful as it should be and to fulfill the real purpose for which God gave these Feast occasions, it requires much preparation. Considering the voluminous amounts of money, time, and energy spent by God's people to attend the Feast of Tabernacles, it would be tragic to give any

less than our all. Both, for the realization of physical honesty and integrity as well as spiritual requirement, we want to and must be well prepared.

NEW INTEREST:

God continues to send those He wants us to serve. Yet, so many seem hopelessly blinded to reality. They seem more calloused and indifferent than many of this world who have never known the Truth. Assuredly, they are in desperate need of our continued prayers. At some time, surely, God will again soften them and make them responsive to the Truth which they once knew and believed. We, all, should be ready to serve them in any way which God may allow. For now, the need is for earnest and continued prayers.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

[Omitted for confidentiality]

GENERAL REQUESTS OR COMMENTS:

Mrs. Sarah Shreckengost of Western Pennsylvania died recently. Mr. George Leeman had the graveside service. Please remember other members of the family in this time of adjustment.

On June 10, 1982, Mr. R.B. Alsup of Texas died. Mrs. Alsup is a member of the church. Please remember her in this time of loneliness and adjustment. (See under "Comments.")

BLESSINGS OF BRETHREN:

[Omitted for confidentiality]

[Omitted for confidentiality]

FEAST OF TABERNACLES:

1. Shilo Inn: (formerly International Dunes and Rodeway): 3350 Gateway; Springfield, OR 97477. Phone is: (503) 747-0332.

RATES: The kitchenette rooms have queen size beds. Some have hide-a-beds. Regardless of number in room, the weekly rate is \$175.00 plus tax. The extra night is \$30.00 plus tax. First night deposit is required. Other room rates range from \$29.00 to \$38.00 per night — depending upon number of people and beds in room.

For best service, please contact Ms. Bonnie Schulz. Mention that you are with the Church of God, The Eternal, for its Fall convention. Hopefully this will settle the problems which we have experienced up to this time. Much of the confusion has come from the triple change in ownership.

2. There are many other motels in the area. There are a few kitchenettes in different motels in Eugene. There may be one problem. Because of some situation requiring special sterilization of utensils in the city of Eugene, most units do not provide these items. Those who rent them must provide their own.

3. The Mitchell Motel in Springfield is a very good, clean economy motel for those who are not looking for luxury — just a very good, clean unit.

4. Car Rental: In both Portland and Springfield there are economy car rentals. Oregon Rent-A-Car; Springfield, Oregon. Phone is: (503) 746-2845. Rates are: \$9.95 per day, or \$60.00 per week. First fifty miles per day are free; ten cents per mile after the free allotment. \$100.00 deposit is required — returned at the time car is returned.

In Portland: Rent-A-Junker, Rent-A-Clunker, and Rent-A-Dent. I have no addresses or telephone numbers. These you can easily obtain.

Despite the terrible sounding names, the vehicles are in good shape. They are just not new cars, yet in quite good shape. In fact, from the information which we have, the companies cannot keep cars on the lot. Business is booming. We recommend a prior reservation.

5. There will be no organized Choir banquet this year. All activities which begin to take on the appearance of having official church sanction should be terminated. We have long ago learned that the church generally should not be involved in extra-curricular activities which do not have Biblical basis.

6. For the benefit of all church members, we are arranging to have the Song of Moses done in a unique manner this year. Since singing is a part of the required service to God, the first two thirds of the production will be presented. Professional musicians have been selected to do the instrumental work. The Church Choir will do the singing — with the aid of a soloist from the outside. Since we are using outside personnel, we felt that we should basically avoid have the production done on the Sabbath. Therefore, by agreement between us and those who will perform, the time has been set at 6:00 P. M. on Friday evening, preceeding the commencement of the Last Great Day — October 8.

As God used Hiram to do the masterful work on the Temple, so we are using those who have trained for years in the musical field. The example was set long ago in the Worldwide Church of God when they used personnel such as Mr. Ettinger and Mrs. Lucy Martin. God uses people who are qualified and highly trained at times. The example is that of Hiram. Interestingly, they are used by God to serve us. Truly, it will be a very great blessing to have them serve us all in this capacity.

7. Why we are holding the Feast of Tabernacles in Eugene.

For a number of years we have discussed the possibility of holding the Feast in two different areas or a more centralized area — for the benefit of the people. But, when checking the availability of facilities where the Feast could be held, it was most apparent the costs per person were going to be much greater. Resorts are very expensive. For that reason, we moved the site from Seaside, Oregon to Eugene. Also, at the time we checked for more centralized meeting facilities, the prices for airline tickets were much greater for internal flights, than for tickets involving coast-to-coast travel. I think this is yet true.

Further, the majority of the people are yet on the West Coast. It would be much more expensive to move this majority to a location where there are very few people. In such a case, nearly all the people would be forced to travel considerable distances. The result: Few people would have any second tithe to assist others.

Though not the most important, the musical part of the Feast is important in the sight of God. The music is not offered because it is our special enterprise. It is ordained of God and does form a basic part of any service. We, as the church has always done, are trying to fulfill what God requires.

Why, then, are we in Eugene?

1. The majority of people are already here.
2. Most of the people have homes which they can open up to those needing assistance.
3. Not being a resort area, the meal prices are considerably lower.
4. More people have excess second tithe which they can give to the church enabling us to help others across the country to attend the Feast.
5. We simply do not have sufficient ministers to consider much diversification.

We are not here because it is an advantage to us. We are here because it is a direct advantage to all of you — those scattered across the country. We are trying to help in every way possible.

What about next year? I cannot say what God will require next year. The whole subject needs a more thorough analysis than we have ever given it before. This should be considered at the Feast this Fall. Perhaps there is a way of helping everyone.

I want what God wants and what is best for all of His people. When we do what God requires, it will be the very best for all of us.

We will try to help as many as we can again this year. Please let us know what your needs are.

TRIPS:

August 14, 1982, I will be in Knoxville, Tennessee area for a Sabbath service. The meeting will be held at the Karns Community Center. The time is 1:00 P.M. If there are any questions, please contact Mr. Bill McCammon.

August 21, 1982, I will be in the Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas area for a Sabbath service. The meeting will be held at The Community Center; Farmersville, Texas. The time of the service will be 10:00 A.M. At noon there will be a covered-dish meal. Each family bringing sufficient to cover their needs, there should be an abundance for all. After the covered-dish meal, there will be a question and answer session.

If there are any questions, please contact Mr. Wesley Winant of Wylie, Texas.

I am eagerly looking forward to seeing all of our beloved brethren in those two areas. For the benefit of all, I do sincerely hope and pray that we

shall be afforded a pleasant and marvellous occasion. Please pray about it. God hears and answers the prayers of the faithful.

Our Swiss trip was a great success. It is always pleasant to spend time with our brothers and sisters of Switzerland and France.

I delivered eleven sermons altogether — seven in Lausanne, including Pentecost, and four in Grenoble, France. The sermons involved subjects of Types and Antitypes — the subjects of Creation, Adam, and Darkness versus Light.

We held four, Thursday evening, Bible Studies in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Aviolat. From fifteen to sixteen people were able to attend regularly. The subject of "Statutes" was covered on these occasions.

We did not do too much personal visiting this year — seeing only Mrs. Meyer and Miss Favre. Of a very personal nature, we did visit Mrs. Ruth Tissot and her daughter and son-in-law. Also, we were privileged to spend time with Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Gil and family.

Besides preparation of sermons and studies mentioned above, much work was done for future tape series, writing a Monthly Letter, writing a new funeral outline — which we desperately needed, work on the subject of Babylonianism, answering personal letters and a host of other studies and writing responsibilities.

COMMENTS:

From Mrs. Alsop of Texas: ". . . my greetings to all of you and I hope some time in the future I can be more a part of the group. I pray for all of you daily and especially those on the prayer list."

NOTES:

Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi is a very skilled writer. He has written two excellent books on the subject of the Sabbath. One: From Sabbath to Sunday. Two: Divine Rest For Human Restlessness. We are ordering a number of these exceptional books. Since he has indicated an interest in supplying them to the church for about half price if bought in sufficient numbers — a minimum of ten — we want to take this opportunity to make them available to any and all who return the information prior to the time we plan to place the order. The deadline is September 1. We want to have them available for distribution at the Feast this year.

The costs are: From Sabbath to Sunday — \$6.95 instead of the regular price of \$12.95. Divine Rest For Human Restlessness — \$4.95 instead of the regular price of \$8.95.

If you are interested in either or both of the above books, please let us know by the deadline date. We will call the order to Dr. Bacchiocchi so that the order will arrive in ample time to make the distribution at the Feast.

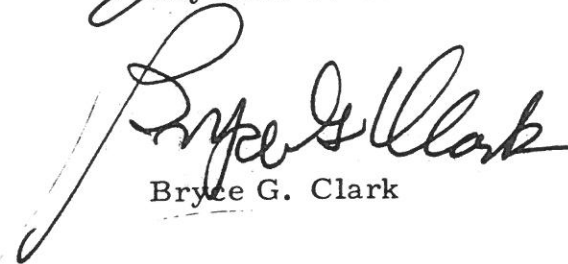
Because of the plethora of subjects to be covered this month, this Announcement Letter is considerably longer than usual. So will not take more space at the present time. We do trust that all are well, happy, and greatly blessed of God despite the times in which we are living. Our prayers, as always, are with and for you. How much and how greatly we anticipate each pleasure of meeting you from time to time. Each opportunity is a very special blessing to us. Take care until next month.

All our love and

In deepest respect,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Raymond C. Cole". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'R'.

Raymond C. Cole

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bryce G. Clark". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'B'.

Bryce G. Clark