

Church of God, The Eternal

P. O. Box 775
Eugene, Oregon 97440

Switzerland
Case Postale 2 701
CH 1002 Lausanne

Canada
P. O. Box 76946, Station "S"
Vancouver, B.C. V5R 5T3

Announcement Letter February, 1983

Warm and heartfelt greetings to you all. Our love, thoughts, and prayers continue with you day by day. Adversity brings us all closer together. The actual experience of trial and suffering is not humanly desirable, but the end result is worth it all to those whose faith endures.

1983 and '84 are frequently indicated as years of time which bear considerable watching by the diligent and alert. Economists, social experts, and other peoples who attempt to keep a finger on the pulse of the nation see very troubled waters ahead for the nation and all peoples of the world.

The people of God are commanded to "WATCH." But that admonition does not specifically relate to one's assets or other possessions. The best way to watch is to keep ourselves shored up spiritually -- capable of enduring the times which lie ahead. God, and only God, can and will see His faithful through these turbulent times. If we are seeking to preserve the physical we will surely loose the spiritual. The physical cannot be taken with us into the Kingdom of God. Physical assets do not assure us of a place in that spiritual realm. But spiritual acquisition does. Therefore, let us strive diligently to maximize the spiritual bank account.

ARTICLES

Work progresses on the article about Healing. Most of the basic historical work is completed. Mr. Clark is presently organizing the historical data into a usable outline. I will be working on the Biblical component of the article in the next few days. Hopefully, by the second or third week in March the actual writing of the article will begin.

GENERAL WORK

Coming with the Monthly Letter this month is another segment of the Babylonian Outline. In this section, the next two major categories are covered. There remain five more basic categories. The next section submitted should complete the

Biblical Outline. In the last section will be the crucial sub-topic dealing with the conflicts between the Truth of God and the Babylonian system. It will reveal the final manifestation of Babylonianism and its influence in that body which held the Truth.

PRAYER REQUESTS

[Omitted for confidentiality]

GENERAL REQUESTS

The need to remember the people of God is more urgent than ever. Health, economics, protection, and others are a matter of our manifested concern for one another. God hears and does answer. We must be diligent and persevering.

BLESSINGS OF BRETHREN

[Omitted for confidentiality]

FEASTS: HOLY DAYS

Mr. Bryce G. Clark will be here in Eugene and Portland again this year. I will be in Switzerland and France for Passover and Unleavened Bread.

Mr. George Leeman may proceed to make whatever arrangements are convenient for him. All other areas may proceed to make necessary arrangements on the basis of past year's activities.

Necessary tapes, instructions, and help will be provided from Eugene. You should be receiving customary material well in advance of the actual Holy Days.

FEAST OF TABERNACLES

The purpose of the Feast of Tabernacles is: 1. To afford us the privilege of obedience to God. 2. To live a foretaste of the Kingdom of God. For those reasons God laid special emphasis upon necessary preparation. That preparation involves travel, consideration of those in need, attitude, good health, and other requisites.

Selection and approval of site locations was a primary consideration of God. The keeping of the Feast must be at those locations where God places His Name. Knowing those basic requirements, we have earnestly sought the guidance and intervention of God. Because of the seriousness of the issue, we have always sought your prayers and help. I am very sure God has guided us each year in the past. Certainly we have some of the most memorable experiences possible in the past. Such fulfillment can come only from the approbation and approval of God.

Why did we choose West Coast sights in past years? Because of the nature and geography of our development, the larger numbers of people came from the West. Almost exclusively, initially. It did not make sense to require the majority to travel for the benefit of the few. A factor weighed in evaluating what God wanted. In the past couple of years, Eugene seemed to be the place selected by God, considering a single site, so that the maximum number of people could attend. After carefully weighing

all the factors involved, the Eugene site was the only possibility.

Because of numerical growth, economic considerations, and the health of several of our people, it seems imperative to reconsider the whole configuration. Something we were not opposed to in the past, except the factors involved did not seem to indicate an imperative need to change.

Things are different now. After much praying about the situation and carefully studying and analyzing the needs, it seems necessary to establish two sites for the year 1983. We have asked you to pray about the need, also. Now circumstances seem to be falling into place in a most marvelous manner. Struggle though we did in the past, we simply could not force our own arrangements. It was not the right time. We firmly believe God has made it abundantly clear that two sites are needed this year.

While in the Knoxville-Maryville, Tennessee area a couple of weeks ago, I did a little checking on possible sites for this year. A marvelous place opened up. When driving through it, both Mr. Bill McCammon and I were impressed with the Feast-like atmosphere prevalent in the area. Miraculously, God led us directly to the facility where we could secure the services of a very fine meeting facility. A problem normally difficult to resolve proved to be no problem at all. Without doubt, you, too, will agree that the area is one of the finest we have ever had for a Feast of Tabernacles convocation. I am absolutely thrilled with the site and the possibilities.

That site is the small community of Townsend, Tennessee, located at the very edge of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. It is as near perfect a site as a facility of this world can be.

The natural line of demarcation between the two sites is the Rocky Mountains. Those on the West Coast will attend the Feast in the location which will be geographically selected for this year. Those East of the Rockies will attend the site at Townsend.

By the above arrangement, all, or at least nearly all, could drive to the Feast. This may be a major advantage in the future. At least, many options are open to those desiring to attend.

Of course, we are not going to draw any absolute and hard lines which cannot be crossed over. However, freedom does carry with it individual responsibility, reason and the exercise of sound judgment. What are the factors which we should consider when thinking of attending a site other than the designated?

There are three things which we should remember. They are as follows:

1. Remember the purpose for the Feast of Tabernacles. It is an appointed time to faithfully obey God. Any other activities are secondary, though not necessarily wrong.

2. There is a reason for two sites: If cross-moving is so prolific that the purpose of establishing two sites is neutralized, the whole endeavor will serve no one. It is conceivable that one site could be destroyed, making it impossible for us to serve those that we have most earnestly sought to help; the infirm, aged, and those less greatly blessed.

3. Observing the Feast of Tabernacles is more than your personal travel, lodging, meals, and other personal amenities. You are going to a specific location for a purpose. That purpose requires planning, renting of meeting facilities, etc.

In the past, the excess second tithe was sufficient to cover these costs. But, with options of travel, unless we are aware of such costs, we could forget some of these hidden costs.

Since it is not our purpose, nor will it ever be short of instruction from God, to engineer systems and ways to extract from God's people, we will try to instruct and then leave the responsibility to people whom we can trust because they love God and His Way of life. We, as ministers, want to be trustworthy -- sufficiently responsible with the charge given to us so that you do not have to live in fear of abandonment. In like manner we will place confidence in you to carry out those responsibilities incumbent upon you. Mutual trust and respect (of course, this comes because of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit) is most rewarding and inspirational.

Considering the above and the need on our part to make necessary arrangements, we must hear from all of you. Please indicate where you desire to attend and the number of people involved. To leave you free to make personal decisions makes it necessary for you to keep us informed.

We must have the above information for purposes of planning. We do not want to excessively plan or under plan for any given area. So many things are entirely based upon the number of people attending a given location.

As mentioned earlier, we will do our best to accommodate those who request special consideration. Just weigh the contents of this section of the Announcement Letter and advise us of your

For this year, the Eastern site will be in Townsend, Tennessee. The business establishment where the meeting hall is located is the Tally-Ho Motel. Mr. and Mrs. Tally are the owners and managers of the motel. Mrs. Tally and two sisters are the owners of the Carriage House Restaurant. The meeting room is above the restaurant. This restaurant is immediately contiguous to the Tally-Ho Motel.

As in the past, each one will make his own reservations. By agreement, Mr. Tally has offered all rooms of his motel for 25.00 -- plus room tax -- per night for a couple. Each small child is a cost of 4.00 extra. He says, they usually do not charge above two extra. I am not sure about kitchenettes.

For the consideration of granting us the meeting at a very reasonable rate, we are to first fill up their motel units, of which there are 34. And this is not a sacrifice. The motel is a very nice one -- excellent rooms.

The owner is Mr. Tally. The telephone number is 615-448-2465. Address is Tally-Ho Motel; Great Smoky Mountains Highway #73; Townsend, Tennessee 37882. Be sure to mention that you are with the Church of God, The Eternal. Also, please mention any extra days you will be staying with them -- both before the meeting and after.

The deposit at time of reservation is 25.00. Cancellations are acceptable if made at least 15 days before arrival date -- 80% refund of deposit. If reservation is transferred to another party -- no loss of deposit. Mr. Tally will retain the initial deposit. The party accepting the reservation can pay the party cancelling.

Once the rooms are filled up at Tally-Ho, excess requests will be transferred to other motel units. Mr. Bill McCammon can help with the evaluation and selection of other housing facilities in the area. His telephone number is 615-984-6585.

Due to early booking by other people -- tourists -- we should book as early as possible. He will hold the time open.

Once you have sent your deposit, with pertinent information -- number of people, arrival date, and date of departure -- Mr. Tally will send a letter of confirmation.

Further, though not bound by contract, yet morally, we should consider securing our breakfasts and lunches at the Carriage House Restaurant. I told him that I would not put any restrictions on evening meals. I know most of you enjoy getting about in any given area and to have that restriction upon you would be too confining. He understands this need.

For those who are going to remain in area, you may proceed to make your reservations. For all others, please send your requests and as soon as we can determine that an area is not being hurt, we will allow you to proceed with your transfer. We will make all haste so that you need not experience unusual anxiety.

We have not made a choice for the West Coast, yet. Somehow I feel compelled to again look at the Bend-Redmond area. When we can be sure what God has in mind for this area, we will advise you. Please continue to pray about our need here. I have never been completely satisfied with the physical situation here in Eugene. It was very obvious that the move was essential for the benefit of many people who had to travel great distances. By this sacrifice, we were able to help a considerable number of people. That always makes me happy.

TRIPS

I have just returned from a very inspirational trip through Tennessee. Was able to see most of the people in the Knoxville and Nashville areas. Spoke to the brethren in the Knoxville area on Sabbath, the eighth of January. Then on Sabbath, the fifteenth of January, I was in the Nashville area.

Let us all continue to pray that God will bless His people and add to their numbers as He sees fit. I know there are others who would love to have and hold the Truth if they could find it and get over the disappointment experienced in the past. Prayer will answer all those needs.

In the end of February, Mr. Bryce Clark will be journeying to the New Jersey-Pennsylvania area. From there he will go down to Baltimore for a Sabbath service. Then on back home. This will prove to be a great blessing to all those people in the Northeastern part of the United States.

OFFICE

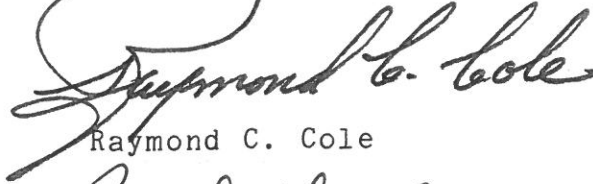
We now have our IBM Personal Computer and Word Processor. This month's Monthly Letter will be processed on it. Without a background of experience, we are attempting to give you the best possible copy of this Letter. If improvements are needed, we will make them until we can duplicate the quality of presentation to which you are accustomed. Please be patient.

CONCLUSION

This Announcement Letter is long. Could not be avoided this time due to the need to explain about the Feast site. Back to normal next time, hopefully.

We sincerely love you and find rendering a service a thing of joy. Please take care of yourselves. You are the children of God. Thank you for your past faith, love, conviction, and humbleness of attitude. Let us all prepare for the certainty of tomorrow.

With warmest regards,

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