

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 May 1983

Dear Brethren:

Warmest greetings from all here in Eugene. With the advent of Spring we surely hope conditions, and above all health, are improving for all. In many respects this past year has been a very trying one. But with such trials, we are afforded knowledge of our weaknesses and the pronounced need to improve in health, attitude, and purpose. If events happen to us and we do not lay them to heart, the experiences are in vain. Remember what God inspired the prophet Isaiah to write? "Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint" (Isa. 1:5). Of course, this is an indictment against those who directly rebel against God. But, why is it true? Because people do not receive the stroke of correction. That is, they refuse to learn from those things which they are experiencing. If this is applicable to those who rebel more and more against the Eternal God, can it be any less true in our lives if we do not receive correction from the hand of a merciful God? Of course not!

That which is most important for us to learn is that God still rules in heaven. He either permits or directly brings to pass events for a purpose. We do ourselves a gigantic disservice if we do not carefully and intelligently evaluate and apply the lessons of life which we have and are experiencing.

We, as a group, should be aware of what is taking place, realizing that we are not ready for the terrifying events yet to transpire on this earth. And if not ready, then, it is now incumbent upon us to begin changing and making the necessary preparation with all due dispatch. The alert and intelligent seriously weigh events and circumstances of life and make the necessary alterations.

CURRENT EVENTS

Though insidious and without fanfare, dramatic changes are underway regarding lifestyles, relationships of the future, and freedoms cherished and taken for granted in too many ways. For those with eyes of understanding and a grasp of the general events of the day, unfolding prophetic events are becoming more and more obvious. In no way can anyone at the present time give specifics regarding these last-day prophecies. To make any such attempt is to advance only one's personal interpretation and will most assuredly lead to disappointment and embarrassment. But that does not mean that the general concept of prophecy cannot be understood. The specifics will be given in God's own time. And there will be no doubt about the meaning and time when God makes the events known.

The point for us to consider here is: Viewing the broad intent of the prophecies which relate to these last days, it is most evident that significant things are occurring. Educationally, things are changing. Economically, events are leading to a rather obvious conclusion. Internationally, we are left with little doubt about what is beginning to emerge. Religiously, we are inundated with concepts of the East -- just as God said would happen in these last days.

Do not attempt to come to specific conclusions with respect to time regarding these events. What you should be doing is observing these occurrences -- making them fit the overall pattern of events which is to transpire. You should never lock yourself into a specific unless you have heard directly from God. The Bible clearly shows that God will make these things known in His Way and time. He has always done so in the past. Why should our time be any different? Anything less than direct revelation from God will absolutely lead to personal shame and confusion. Everyone believes he has studied these things and they are obvious to him. He cannot understand why everyone cannot see the same things he does. All men are right in their own eyes. But, God is not bound by the thoughts of men. Since prophecy is of God, it seems sensible to let Him reveal the true meaning -- in His own time.

Study all the Bible. Know what is written for our time. But leave the ultimate interpretation to the Author of those Words -- God.

ARTICLES

Healing: Work on the rough draft of the historical aspect of medicine is underway and the final touches are being completed on the organization of the outline in preparation for the Biblical part. May we urge you to pray seriously about the final outcome of this most significant article. We do hope to have it done for the Feast of Tabernacles.

Calendar: Much study and work has been done on another article on the Calendar. Please pray about the writing of this article. Our Calendar researcher, Mr. Robert Jacobs, has worked hard on this subject. He has researched the questions involved. The article is an attempt to answer every question which has been raised. I know of no one who has even begun to put the time and study into this subject that Mr. Jacobs has.

It is our hope to have that article ready for the Feast of Tabernacles, also. Please pray about it, too.

Other: Much research is being done on a number of other articles which we hope to have ready for you in the future. The interesting fact is this: The more honest and unbiased research and Biblical study we perform, the more obviously documented and substantiated is the "faith once delivered." The great reason for the amount of time taken is the fact we do not want to overlook one single concept or idea. For, if a doctrine is the Truth, it must not be in conflict with any other principle of the Bible. The tragedy of so much

work which others are doing is that their conclusions are in direct violation or conflict with other equally important doctrines.

GENERAL WORK

It is my hope to write a few letters specifically for the French-speaking brethren throughout the year. The reason: Due to the necessity of translation, the regular Monthly Letters do not make it into the homes of these brethren in the way and time they do for all of the English-speaking brethren. By choosing special occasions, I can write material specifically for them. God giving me the extra strength and capability, I shall find this responsibility stimulating and challenging.

NEW INTEREST

The influx of new interest continues. We are most grateful to God. Although we have never predicated our endeavors on numbers or money, we are most appreciative for this new interest. Each one who returns to the "faith once delivered" is one redeemed from the terrible curses of the future. One cannot but rejoice for each one who escapes such prophesied events.

As indicated earlier, this new interest comes from all parts of the world. Truly God is now selecting "the salt of the earth."

PRAYER REQUESTS

[Omitted for confidentiality]

GENERAL REQUESTS

[Omitted for confidentiality]

BLESSINGS OF BRETHREN

[Omitted for confidentiality]

[Omitted for confidentiality]

FEASTS -- HOLY DAYS

In general, all the lead men in their respective areas may make whatever Pentecost arrangements deemed necessary. You men know the needs of those areas. I know we can count on you in this act of service to and for the brethren in those areas.

I will be flying out for Pentecost and the Sabbaths both before and after Pentecost. The Sabbath before Pentecost -- Sabbath, May 23, 1983, I am planning to be in the Ohio area. For Pentecost, I will be in the Carlisle, Pennsylvania, area where the combined churches of the Northeast will gather. Mr. George Leeman may proceed to make all arrangements for the services there.

Remember, Pentecost is Monday, May 23, this year. It is the "faith once delivered." We hope and pray that all will have a marvelous occasion.

Tapes for both the AM and PM services are to be made and sent to all. At the appropriate time you will be receiving your copies of these tapes. For those congregating in the area where I will be speaking, you may want to refrain from listening to the tapes until after I have been there. The subject material may be the same. However, we do want you to have the tapes, regardless.

FEAST OF TABERNACLES

May I once again recommend early reservations for the Feast this Fall. As soon as possible the management of the facilities which we are using would like to put the remainder of their units on the open block -- to rent out to whomever may come along. They are holding a certain number of units open until a specific closing date. The earlier we fulfill our obligation, the earlier we can release the units back to the management for other rentals. It is only fair to them. They have been very kind to us.

TRAVEL

I had a very successful trip to Switzerland and France this year. I was very greatly encouraged by the contact with the brethren in Europe. I surely hope that they were mutually inspired by the visit.

There was a total of twelve meetings. One of those was the Board Meeting. But, in a space of two weeks, eleven sermons is a heavy

load. A load of work which I enjoyed and which gave me much encouragement.

The people are all quite well. Some did experience some of the health ravages and weather problems which seemed to be problematic around the world this year. But, as always, God delivered His people through these trials. We can always count on Him.

All the people asked me specifically to convey their deepest love and affection to you all. Though they have never seen you, they speak of you on a warm and very personal basis. It has been my intent to make all of you aware of one another -- The people here aware of those who are faithful in Europe; and, in turn, to make them aware of you. It is gratifying to see how well all the people have responded. Our personal thanks to you all.

I did very little personal visiting this year. Instead, I did much studying and writing. By doing some of the work over there, I do not get as far behind while gone from the office.

May I express my thanks to you all for your prayers. They were often felt in the course of carrying out responsibilities while over there.

Specifically, Mr. and Mrs. Aviolat extend their warm love and regards to all. Please continue to remember them in regard to the spiritual responsibilities which they bear.

It is very much my hope that some of the other members whom you have seen will have the opportunity to come to America. You will equally enjoy their company.

CONCLUSION

At times sadness does befall us. We were saddened by the death of one whom we all loved greatly. On Thursday, April 21, at 6:55 AM, Mr. George Hughes died. He was buried on Friday, April 22, at 4:00 PM. Mr. John Byrd conducted the memorial service. In one sense we are grieved at the passing of this life. Yet, in another sense we sorrow not as others, because we know that Mr. Hughes is now peacefully resting, awaiting the day of the resurrection. He no longer has to concern himself with the future. That is a very real responsibility still borne by us all.

Mrs. Hughes does wish to convey all her love and respect to you all for the love and deep concern manifested in the days of his severe trial. An outpouring of your present affection and sympathy will be greatly appreciated, I know.


Now, finally, please do not forget the need to return regularly the tapes. Your help in this regard does help us financially. We have thousands of tapes in circulation. When these are returned, we are not required to purchase new tapes.

May I personally thank you for the manner in which you have always responded. We are cognizant of such response and do convey our deep thanks.

In conclusion, we extend our love and respect always. We do look for those special opportunities when we can be with you all personally. Please keep the faith. You do not have anything unless you do honor the commitment which you made with God at the time of your baptism. That commitment was to be faithful to that doctrine -- the Truth -- which you received. We pray for that faithfulness. Please pray for us, always.

With profound respect,


Raymond C. Cole


Bryce G. Clark

P.S. The Sabbath service for May 28, in Knoxville, Tennessee, will be at the library in Maryville, Tennessee. The hall is reserved for 12:00 noon to 4:00 PM. The service will begin at 1:00 PM. See you there.

For those desiring counseling please arrange to see me before or after the service. I will be at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bill McCammon. Their address is: Route 13, Box 234; Maryville, Tennessee 37801. Their telephone number is: (615) 984-6585. R.C.C.