

# Church of God, The Eternal

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## Announcement Letter December 1983

Warmest Greetings To You All:

Winter is fast approaching. Many sections of the country are already experiencing the brunt of what promises to be a severe winter. As the years of the "last days" approach or progress, whichever the case may be, the prophesied climactic events will grow in intensity. Many times the people of God will undergo these same difficulties, but with a dramatic difference. They will be protected and spared from the ravages and severity of the events.

Of course, we do not know the exact time of the great events-calendar of God. But, it goes without saying that at some point in the history of man the events prognosticated to happen must begin to occur. What complicates the matter significantly is the fact the agnostics will be as doubtful and condemnatory toward the true believers in that critical hour as disbelievers were in the historical past toward those who erroneously presumed to understand events and times of the last days. Only those called by God will understand, within the limits imposed by God, the times, conditions, and circumstances which are applicable to these final chaotic days. Rest assured that some are going to be the called of God. They will understand and will, therefore, know whereof they speak. But this does not mean they will be accepted or believed by people in general. On the contrary, they will be greatly ridiculed and despised. And as the intensity of the trials grows, the hate and contempt will augment. In general, people are never appreciative for knowledge or help given if it counters that which they elect to believe, or perhaps better stated, that which they wish to believe. The sum of the above is this: The people of God are at the threshold of very trying and difficult times. Though protected, as God promised, the reality of the curses pronounced for the last days will be seen and felt. Even a "place of safety" is no picnic. There are incredible hardships involved in any dislocation. No matter what that protection is or where it occurs, we will be subjected to a time of faith refinement. Now is the time to prepare hearts and minds for this inevitable eventuality.

### CURRENT EVENTS

Watch for more and more, and at the same time increasingly more fanatical, demonstrations from militant groups demanding a

surrender of U.S. principles and objectives inherent in the constitutional basis of our government. Who can fault the concept of peace? But when the word "peace" is used to hide the real objective, the wary and honest must ask why a very real dichotomy of directional emphasis exists. That is, why are those so strongly opposed to nuclear proliferation singularly against the United States? Has no one told them that there are two great nuclear powers? And, in fact, the one has manifested no honest willingness to reduce their weapons, or even the tensions which so adversely affect all nations at this present time. If people are not going to trust God as they were instructed to do, common sense tells us that they had better trust that which they can devise for themselves. Even God told ancient Israel, after they had rejected Him from being their direct King and military Commander, that they should go up to battle against their enemies. He was responsible for the conscription laws which we find in the Pentateuch. Yet in all this, those physical people chosen by God to be His peculiar people were warned against allowing themselves to begin trusting in "horses" for their protection. In other words, what God required was a continuous trust in Him even though the Israelites wanted to be politically and militarily like all other nations. The United States and Great Britain are the modern-day descendants of ancient Israel. It is only those spiritually called of God who can implicitly trust Him without some visible prop -- a king or a standing army. As nations not called of God, spiritually, it would not have been wrong for them to maintain their military strength and power. But while manifesting a physical orientation, they should have continued to exhibit strong moral principles of honesty, industry, compassion, and loyalty -- loyalty to letter obedience, even if real spiritual obedience is impossible.

For now, I must avoid taking sufficient time and space to evaluate other problems extant in the world. Indeed, there are many. And the time of reality will come altogether too soon.

#### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Our taping department is considerably removed from the office here at 790 Park Avenue. If you enclose items in the tape envelopes which we provide for the return of the tapes which we mailed to you, or larger boxes if you elect to use them, there is a very good chance we will not receive that material for several days after those packages arrive here in Eugene. Boxes and envelopes containing tapes are not always opened immediately. These packages are stored until there is a need for the tapes contained in them. At that time the material will be found and sent to this office.

Of course, we do not care if you elect to send material or instructions via that means, but we do want you to know of the possible delay in handling requests or other work required. Henceforth, if you elect to send anything in the envelopes or other packages, just be aware there may be a delay in receiving whatever you may have requested or needed to be processed.

#### ARTICLES

Editing is about finished on the final section of the healing article. Just as soon as this is finished, the final preparations, printing, and mailing will require just a few days. You should be receiving the article somewhere around the first of the upcoming new year.

The calendar article is nearly completed, that is the rough draft. Once we have received the draft here in the office we will attempt to finish it with all speed.

#### GENERAL WORK

We now have our new IBM computer network system. This system will save us much time. Further, I, personally, am looking forward to putting all my Hebrew and Greek word studies on disk. I cannot even imagine the speed with which these studies can be reviewed and used in other areas of our endeavor. What a blessing this network system will prove to be as we learn to use its full potential.

In just a matter of days, we are scheduled to receive the new tape duplicating equipment. This one will make our previous duplicators look ancient in speed and capability. In due time, all of you should begin to hear the quality and value of this instrument. In every way we can go stereophonic. Please let us know of your reactions.

Just as soon as time will allow, the 1984 travel schedules will be compiled. You will be hearing about the matters pertinent to you, individually. Within the scope of these schedules will, of course, be the upcoming Spring Holy Days.

#### NEW INTEREST

I was personally privileged to meet a number of fine new people while in Breezewood, Pennsylvania, for a Sabbath service on November 19. We are most grateful for their interest. I know God will

be with them in encouragement and help as they endeavor to obey Him faithfully.

Also, as previously mentioned, we are hearing from several across the nation who are manifesting interest in the Truth to which they were initially called. Our prayers are for them also, as they study and endeavor to make the right decisions.

PRAYER REQUESTS

[Omitted for confidentiality]

GENERAL REQUESTS

[Omitted for confidentiality]

BLESSINGS OF BRETHREN

[Omitted for confidentiality]

[Omitted for confidentiality]

#### HOLY DAYS

As soon as schedules are completed all pertinent information will be given. These schedules should be completed in the next few days. With early information, responsible men in the various areas may begin to work on required arrangements.

#### FEAST OF TABERNACLES

The 1984 contract has been signed. If we can book the minimum (75) rooms for the Feast of 1984, we are guaranteed the rock-bottom prices given for this year. If, however, we do not meet the minimum room number, there will be a very slight increase in the cost of each room.

The above arrangement is exactly what it was for 1983. But, The Inn of the Seventh Mountain personnel, knowing the economic problems experienced by many people, elected not to charge the higher rate. They were very kind and considerate toward us.

There is no need to write more about the Feast in this issue of the Announcement Letter. We simply wanted to apprise you of the contract for 1984.

Also, when time permits, we want to draw up necessary guidelines for the selection of a Feast site. Such a list will be useful for anyone in the future.

### TRIPS

On November 12 I was at the Delaware Water Gap for a Sabbath service. The brethren from New York, New Jersey, and Eastern Pennsylvania gathered for this special service. Due to illness, or other problems, a few were not able to attend. We missed them very greatly but those present did have a very great day. True and genuine fellowship is so requisite for encouragement and a sense of purpose.

On November 19 I was in Breezewood, Pennsylvania, for a Sabbath service. The brethren from Ohio, Western Pennsylvania, and from the Baltimore, Maryland, area were present. Here, too, some were not able to attend due to illness, distance, or other situations. But, we were afforded an absolutely magnificent day. How grateful to God we are for such privileges.

Brethren of those areas, my fond remembrances and thoughts are with you. How I wish one of us could see you more often. You are greatly blessed having Mr. Leeman close and able to see you occasionally. Some of the areas of the country have no one. But please remember you are not forgotten. We love you all.

On December the 15th I will leave for a tour of Nashville and Dallas. I am now looking forward to seeing all of our friends -- brothers and sisters of the common faith -- in those two areas. Sabbath service on the 17th of December will be in Nashville. Arrangements for that service will be made by Messrs. Robert Jacobs and Don Brisby. Please contact them for all pertinent information. Sabbath services for December the 24th will be in the Dallas area. Actually, the services will be conducted in the Community Building in Farmersville. Most of you have been there before. For any needed instruction or help please contact Mr. Wesley Winant.

Times of services in Farmersville will be 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM. For time of service or services in Nashville, please contact Mr. Jacobs or Mr. Brisby.

I am looking forward to seeing all at those designated places. Until that time, please accept all our love and thoughts of kindness.

### RECENT COMMENTS

From what we are hearing, most, if not all, had a marvelous Feast this year. The comments manifest a high degree of excitement and enthusiasm. For this all the ministry and those who bore

responsibility are most grateful. It was our privilege to serve you. A joyous and responsive attitude makes such service more meaningful. Thank you for hearing and responding to the Truth.

GENERAL COMMENTS AND/OR INFORMATION

[Omitted for confidentiality]

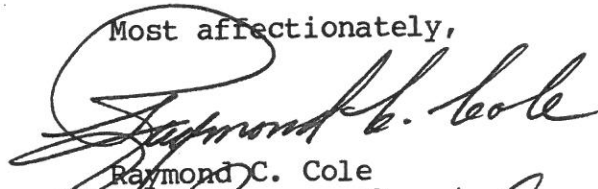
CONCLUSION

The month of November is now history. Hour by hour our allotted time is ticking away. Truly, we must be about our Father's business. Each and every day and month must count in our endeavor to master the self, with the powerful aid of the Holy Spirit.

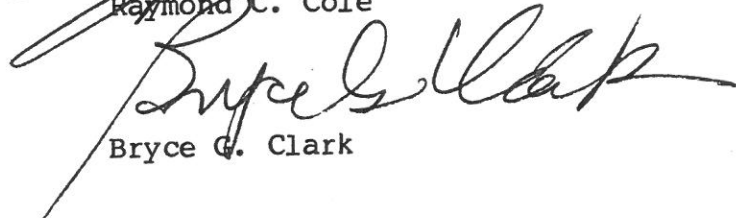
We remember you all most fondly. Our prayers are with you daily and we do earnestly desire an interest in your supplications to God.

Please take care. As stated so many times, you are precious in the sight of God. And as His children you are also precious to us.

Most affectionately,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Raymond C. Cole".

Raymond C. Cole

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bryce G. Clark".

Bryce G. Clark