

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 January 1984

Our Very Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Last month I spoke of the advent of Winter. Little needs to be said about that occurrence. Winter arrived with a very big bang. It has dealt its lethal blow to many people across the nation. Significantly, the United States and Canada are the only areas adversely hit at this present time. Recently I scanned a table of international temperatures. For a number of days the whole of the United States and Canada was involved in frigid conditions not experienced in any other area around the world. And the temperature spread was considerable at that.

As we have said so many times, the day on which the adversities of the last days must commence will surely come and in all probability will be treated routinely just as any other day of the year. Only as the days progress in the fulfillment of the purpose of God will the majority of those called of God realize that the times are not ordinary. In a general sense, we can know the times of the fulfillment of these terrible prophecies; in that broad sense, we know that events are conspiring to the ultimate conclusion foreordained of God. It is our hope that the personal spiritual progress of each of us is equal to that of the downward thrust of the physical conditions observed daily.

We do sincerely pray and hope that none of you have been hit hard by these conditions which have taken their toll across the United States and Canada. If there is a need of help, in any way, please let us know. We do want to be apprised of the condition of all the brethren across the country, or around the world -- wherever the need may arise. We will count on you letting us know.

CURRENT EVENTS

Unless the United States elects to fight a definitive war in Lebanon, we may have consigned ourselves to a hopeless morass. The concept of stability must first be a basic of a people's character

before it can become a principle upon which mutual agreements are predicated. Such integrity does not exist in those areas where we have become deeply involved. History shows a constant struggle among divergent factions in those countries. Any country attempting to intervene in that emotional and volatile atmosphere is destined to be swallowed up in the mire of the conflict. There are only two ways to handle such situations. One, by superiority a country of objective ideal must subdue the aggressive and disoriented, then set them upon a course of purpose and stability punctuated with a willingness to use that power for constructive and objective pursuits. All purposes of exploitation and subjective pursuits must be avoided. Second, if the first course of action is not pursued, for the purpose of international stability, then no country has any business getting involved in the affairs of any other country. By now, it looks like we would have learned that lesson. Being absolutely honest with ourselves, what have we gained by our endeavors in Korea, Vietnam, Cuba, Central America, and other areas of the world where we have become involved, in one way or another? As long as the United States and Canada refuse to truly turn to God for their protection and direction, they manifest only foolishness when avoiding a direct and aggressive physical solution to the problems with which they are confronted today. Such foolishness reminds us of some of the significant prophecies relative to the people of God (Israel) in these last days. They have lost heart, courage, and conviction. Do they indeed manifest some form of guilt complex as stated by many historical analysts who are currently writing about the mood and behavior of Western peoples? They seem to be ashamed of the great blessings of God given to us because of the faithful obedience of our forefather Abraham. They are utterly unable to grasp the reasons or whys of the intense problems of the remainder of the world. God did make all the facts known. But man has rejected the knowledge of God. In a sense they may have accepted the names of Christ and God, but they fail to realize the value of Biblical instruction to themselves. Clearly, the rest of the world is suffering because of their rejection of God. In a very comparable way, Israel (U.S. and Canada) is going to pay the price for her rejection of God. Therefore, rather than the Western world being able to help the "have-not" nations from the immense blessings bestowed upon it because of the promises of God to Abraham, both the "have" and "have-not" nations will be reduced to penury, disease, curses -- the very conditions being experienced by the "have-not" nations at this present time. When the whole world is reduced to such a desperate condition who is going to help whom at that time? Once all peoples are at rock-bottom maybe they will turn to the One Being only who is able to help them.

What is the fate of the United States in Lebanon? Only time can tell us. Most certainly, we do not have long to wait. Reality will be at our doorstep all too soon.

Nearly all reports are indicating a glowing expansion of the economy during the calendar year of 1984. If, literally, this prophecy is true, the people of God should seize this reprieve to entrench themselves in some productive employment and then make themselves virtually indispensable. Most employers will not dismiss an employee who is a valuable asset regardless of his need for special consideration. As the Apostle Paul said, we must work for any employer as though we were working directly for Jesus Christ.

In the final analysis, there simply is no way for us to exist through these difficult last days except by placing our trust in God. He alone has the power and foreknowledge to guide and sustain us in all trials and difficulties. Do not be caught, at some future date, wishing that you had made better preparation during the time when such preparation would have counted significantly. Now is the time, in faith, to make all necessary changes -- to put on all spiritual growth. Those with vision will set about the responsibility without argument or delay. May God guide you in your endeavors. The prayers and encouragement of the brethren will avail much. How greatly we all need the love and affection of those of like minds and purpose.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

"The Song of Moses" videotapes: As you all are aware, we had videotapes made at the time of the production of "The Song of Moses." These tapes were made to be shown at the Feast of Tabernacles. Some, however, have asked to purchase a copy of the production for themselves -- for in-home viewing. There are two videotapes -- covering the entire production. The cost is \$70.00 for the set. Before submitting the list we presently have, we wanted to make this opportunity available to any others who may wish to be included. If any of you possess VHS equipment you may wish to own your own set. Please let us know and we will be glad to arrange the purchase for you. We will hold up any production until the first of February, 1984. This should give any of you ample time to respond with your request.

The records are still coming. We are having some difficulty with the company engaged to press these records. Surely, they will be shipped in a matter of days from the time of this writing. We do want to thank you for your patience. It has been trying on all of us. The business atmosphere is not what it once was. We will let you know just as soon as the records are available.

ARTICLES

Sorry, but with the press of the end-of-the-year duties, it is impossible to complete the healing article. It will come with the February issue of the Monthly Letter.

May we once again request your diligent and persistent prayers concerning the preparation and study for the article on Israel and the Church. Really there is no way these two subjects can be submitted separately. They are completely intertwined historically, spiritually, and prophetically.

So much material continues to present itself concerning the calendar computation that we are again forced to delay its completion. From what I have already seen, you are going to be greatly surprised and impressed at the substantiation of your past faith and conviction regarding the "Jewish" or Hebrew calendar.

Mr. Robert Jacobs is a very good researcher. Having a full-time job of his own, this research and writing must of necessity transpire only on off days and in the evenings. For this labor of love, on the behalf of all the brethren, we do convey our deepest thanks.

Due to Mr. Jacob's keen interest in the above technical subject, we are going to have him to pursue research and writing on the subjects of the Great Pyramid and the nineteen-year time cycle as soon as the calendar article is completed.

PRAYER REQUESTS

[Omitted for confidentiality]

[Omitted for confidentiality]

GENERAL REQUESTS

[Omitted for confidentiality]

BLESSINGS OF BRETHREN

[Omitted for confidentiality]

FEASTS: HOLY DAYS

Passover and Unleavened Bread: It is not too early for all of those who bear responsibility in the various areas across the country to begin making preparations for the upcoming Holy Days. Please complete the physical arrangements and then submit all the data so that I can include the material in an upcoming Announcement Letter. In this way all the brethren, nationwide, will be informed of the locations, times, and other requisites concerning these services.

Again this year I will be in Switzerland for Passover and Unleavened Bread. This will necessitate Mr. Clark being here in Oregon.

With the above information in mind, all of you who bear local responsibility may begin to make appropriate arrangements for your respective areas. If the information is available by January 28th -- date for writing the Announcement Letter -- I will include it in the February issue.

FEAST OF TABERNACLES

The only item to cover this month is transfer requests. Please, if you are considering applying for a transfer to the Feast site not geographically assigned to you, submit that request at your earliest convenience. When evaluating these requests, they will be considered on the basis of date applied. The only consideration which will be given priority over date of application will be that of specific need of personnel for the purpose of carrying out required functions or services during those days.

TRIPS

Nashville, Tennessee: On the Sabbath of December 17, I was privileged to be with the brethren in Franklin, Tennessee, for a marvelous service. Though the weather was quite bad, God afforded those who attended an absolutely beautiful meeting. It was enjoyed by all who were there.

Dallas, Texas: On the Sabbath of December 24, I was privileged to be with the brethren in Farmersville, Texas. Again, God gave those called brethren a very marvelous occasion. The weather was cold outside but the atmosphere inside was very warm.

Knoxville, Tennessee -- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania: Mr. Bryce Clark will be in the Knoxville area for Sabbath, February 4. On the Sabbath of February 11, he will be in the Ohio/Pennsylvania area. Will responsible individuals please make arrangements for these two areas. For your help we thank you.

We are always most thankful to God for His loving intervention in the lives of those who do honor Him with faithful obedience. Can anything here on this earth compare to the ability to really trust God?

OFFICE

Our new computer network is in place. We should be very greatly facilitated in the amount of service which we can render to you now. For the scope and success of this computer system, we owe a great vote of thanks to Kent Clark -- the son of Bryce Clark. He has given

us many beautiful programs for most of the work which we need to accomplish daily and monthly.

COMMENTS

Death has claimed another life. After living a long and productive life, God has seen fit to take the life of Mr. Charles Angstead. He was seventy-seven, lacking only a few days of being seventy-eight years of age. Of course, we will all miss him. He was a longtime and dear friend to many. But, thank God, he is now removed from the trials and difficulties of these last days.

Mrs. Marian Meining expresses her most sincere appreciation for your kind thoughts and prayers. Both she and her husband convey their deepest love and respect to you all.


Tape return: Once again, we wish to emphasize the need to return used tapes as soon as you are finished with them. Due to a very low supply on hand (40 tapes), we will be forced to dip into the new supply for the weekly mailings. We want you to take ample time to hear the messages as often as you would like. Then, after accumulating a number of tapes, a return to us would be appreciated. With many thousands of tapes in circulation, we should be able to avoid the necessity of using new tapes too often. Thanks for your kind attention to this matter.

In conclusion, we do convey our continued love and affection. Either through the occasional trips or some upcoming Feast, we will have the opportunity of seeing most of you before the year 1984 expires into that irretrievable past.

With profound respect,

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