

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 AUGUST 1984

Dear Brethren:

Warmest greetings, love, and affection to all. More and more as the days of evil come and go, our attention is turned to our brothers and sisters of the common faith. We sincerely trust and hope that your faith and conviction remain strong and unshakeable. As you were told in the Monthly Letter, this is a time of major testing and trying for God's chosen servants. It is the time to manifest the level of faith essential to endure unto the end.

There will be times when many will be tempted to trust in their own concepts or evaluations of times and circumstances. Changes and determinations will seem so logical to the natural mind. Allow me to emphasize once again what I have stated several hundred times -- do not trust anything but the "faith once delivered" -- that faith revealed when you were first called, the basis on which you were baptized. What else do we have? If we lose that most valuable possession, we are left with nothing of permanent value. The ways and concepts of men -- all men -- will end.

With the advent of the Olympics, the threat of violence and terrorism is now at hand. Interestingly, on the very day of the opening ceremonies, an act of violence did occur. Is it an omen for the future? When the Communist nations refused to come, stating that they feared a violent outbreak of terrorism, were they telling us something that they already knew? This country is laden with terrorist groups which are supported by underground agencies of those countries.

Most other world activity will be completely overshadowed by the Olympics for the next few weeks. This, of course, is one of the indications of the times in which we live. The growth and whimsical nature of sports seems to be of more paramount significance to the average individual than anything else in life. Little effort is expended in attempting to understand man's existence or purpose.

The lessons we, as the called of God, must take from the above comments are: (1) Remember who we are, (2) remember the purpose for the priceless call given to us, (3) keep ourselves from becoming excessively involved in the events of the day, (4) know the times in

which we live; let us not become emotionally involved in the consequences and punishments others encounter due to their sins, and (5) be ready always to give an explanation for the faith and conviction which we must manifest regardless of the circumstances prevailing at the time.

ARTICLES

We are rapidly progressing on the research needed before writing the article on the new birth. As I have said several times, it seems that our chief responsibility has become the necessity of defending the faith (doctrine) which God gave us originally. The subject of the new birth is coming under increasing ridicule and castigation. Since the phenomenal increase in occultism, there is presently a major thrust to connect the concept of being born into the family of God with the various weird pagan (occult) concepts of the past. This article is written to show conclusively that the doctrine of nominal Christianity, as well as the ideas of pagans around the world, are in actuality the continuation of the old mystery concepts. This article should be both interesting and informative.

Work has not stopped on the subject of Israel. But as stated in the past few months, the major tenor of the subject most likely will be Biblical rather than historical. So many of the "historical proofs" given by organizations occupied purely in the advancement of the subject of Israel have been created out of whole cloth. Attempting to be absolutely honest with all the available facts, we simply cannot use supposed historical information.

Have no fears about the subject of Israel. The strongest proofs of the subject are Biblical. The doctrine stands as firm as ever. Historical information is either provable or it is not. In the case of the material normally used regarding this subject, its veracity appears to be somewhat tenuous at the very least. Information which might or might not be accurate must be accepted conditionally only. Such material cannot be used as absolute proof for anything. For these reasons we are going to resort to the "faith once delivered" and the Biblically recorded data itself. This is not to say there will be no historical proof. There will be. This is saying that the major proofs will come from the recorded Word of God.

GENERAL WORK

A cantata has been completed and recorded for the Feast of Tabernacles. It is the second in a series of seven cantatas which we hope to have composed eventually -- covering the meaning and purpose of all the Holy Days.

The next cantata we plan to have done is that of the Feast of Pentecost. With its completion we will have covered all three major seasons. The fill-in will come as time and economics allow. Once all the cantatas are completed, it is our hope to put them together into one significant recording. In this way the whole story undergirding the meaning of the Holy Days can be musically conveyed.

Since we hope to use a few of the numbers involved in the Feast of Tabernacles cantata for special music at the Feast itself, we will not distribute the tapes until the conclusion of the Feast. At that time the cantata tapes will be made available for any who wish to pick them up for their own personal pleasure.

These tapes beautifully convey the meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles. I will let the cassettes speak for themselves.

NEW INTEREST

Previously you were informed about the interest of people in Africa. A number of meaningful articles were sent. Also, I wrote a personal letter to the group.

We have just now received a reply to the letter and articles. These people had not understood the Holy Days of God. From our literature they have come to accept these sacred Holy Days. They are yet very desirous for contact with us personally.

One of these members will be visiting a brother who resides in Houston, Texas. It is their hope that a physical contact can be achieved while he is here in the United States. Since I do have a phone number, this member will be called. From that contact, we can determine what direction to take next. We would certainly appreciate your prayers regarding this matter.

PRAYER REQUESTS

[Omitted for confidentiality]

[Omitted for confidentiality]

GENERAL REQUESTS

[Omitted for confidentiality]

BLESSINGS OF BRETHREN

Most have secured good, gainful employment. For those yet seeking necessary work let us continue to pray. God is good and ever concerned with the status of life experienced by His own children.

FEASTS: HOLY DAYS

Those who are responsible in the various areas across the United States and Canada, please proceed at the appropriate times to make whatever arrangements are necessary for the Feast of Trumpets and the Day of Atonement. If other instructions are necessary, they will be given in the September issue of the Announcement Letter.

FEAST OF TABERNACLES

Enclosed are two separate rate sheets for those involved in the Bend, Oregon, Feast of Tabernacles site. The most reasonable rate applies if we come up to the room quota (75) upon which the original rates were predicated. If we do not meet that room requirement, the higher rate will apply. To this rate is applied the county room tax, a rate of 6 percent, regardless of which daily figure we are required to pay. At the time you call and make your reservation, the personnel at The Inn of the Seventh Mountain are instructed to quote you the lesser of the two figures. But, please keep in mind that the higher rate might apply if we do not meet the room quota. This is the essence of our contract agreement with the Inn.

May we encourage you to make your reservations as soon as possible. In this way we can begin to make all our final plans which are necessary to effect a smooth and efficient operation this year.

Personnel at the Inn are most helpful and courteous. They look forward to our coming again this year. Most situations they can handle with ease. If anything of significance arises, please refer the problem to us. We will be most happy to help you. We are within easy range of the facility. Acting on behalf of the entire group, we can oftentimes achieve much more than an individual can.

Of course, I do not anticipate any problems. As stated earlier, the personnel there are most courteous and well trained for their duties. It is our duty to see that we do not create any untenable situations. That is the very premise of the philosophy which we live and manifest in our daily lives. Just one person acting willfully can leave a bad image for all the Church.

Last year you left a marvelous image. They sincerely want us to return to the Inn. Let us keep that image of warmth and friendliness.

Arrangements are coming along very well regarding the Townsend, Tennessee, Feast site. The encouragement to make early reservations is equally applicable here. In fact, due to the time of the year, the time of the annual Fall foliage sightseeing by the American public, it is even more imperative that you secure your reservations early.

Please do not make any reservations for 1985. We do not want to allow any situation to arise whereby owners and operators can begin to take advantage of Church members. Believe me, I have seen this happen. If you will wait until we give you the green light to make your own reservations, you will avoid many of the problems experienced in years past by those who independently sought their own arrangements. Such a practice is all unscrupulous owners or managers need to take advantage

of us. Most owners and managers are fine. But it takes only a few to make things very difficult. If you will allow us to control that part of the arrangement, you will avoid many difficulties in the future.

OFFICE

A few must have misunderstood the information we sent regarding the use of the 4912 West Amazon Drive; Eugene, Oregon, address. That address is to be used for tape return only. All regular correspondence is to be sent to: P.O. Box 775; Eugene, Oregon 97440-0775.

Again, send only tapes to the West Amazon Drive address.

COMMENTS

Mr. C. E. Leukering's mother, age 92, died just a few days ago. She died a very peaceful death, for which we all can be most thankful.

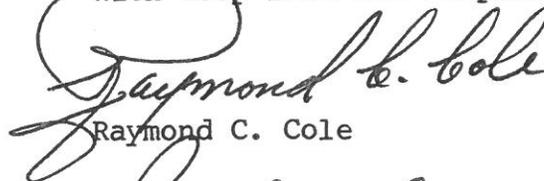
Let us publicly extend our thanks to Mr. Leukering for the manner in which he cared for his mother. In this day, so few want to be bothered with anyone else. He was an example of concern and care in every respect.

Mrs. Doris Crawford has just moved from Long Island, New York, to Eugene, Oregon. We are most happy for her and do hope that she finds much happiness and joy in her new location.

With the writing of this Letter, I am made aware that another month is approaching. And with the advent of August, we are only two months away from the time of the Feast of Tabernacles. What a joy it will be for all of us to be together again. Let us all pray for the best and most encouraging Feast possible. I am sure God will give us the petitions of our hearts as long as we do not ask amiss or for the purpose of satisfying our carnal desires.

Thank you, again, brethren, for allowing us this time to come into your homes. We always appreciate the opportunities to serve you -- to manifest a genuine love and concern for each.

With deep love and respect,


Raymond C. Cole


Bryce G. Clark