

Church of God, The Eternal

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ANNOUNCEMENT LETTER SEPTEMBER 1984

Dear Brethren:

With the receipt of this Announcement Letter there remains but one month before convoking for the keeping of the Feast of Tabernacles. From the contents of letters received, most of you are very anxious and deeply looking forward to that occasion. I know God will give us a very wonderful convocation. We are there to honor Him and to fulfill His command that we come to appear before Him.

It is the spiritual responsibility of each one of us to evaluate just what he is putting first in his life. We must remember that the command to attend does not proceed from men. It is the command of God. Unless we have a very good reason -- illness, lack of funds, etc. -- we had better weigh again our decision. As the ministry, all we can do is warn. The action you take must be yours, predicated on faith and conviction. If we fail to act on the Word, let us not complain when things do not go well with us. For it is God who said that curses and difficulties come upon us when we fail to live the Truth to which we have been called.

Now is not too early to begin the preparation of correct attitudes essential for the receipt of God's blessings. When and if we really grasp the purpose of the Feast of Tabernacles, it would be impossible for us to bring with us the attitudes which we sometimes develop in this world of hurry, frustration, and belligerence. Surely none of us wants to carry those emotions into the Kingdom of God. The Feast of Tabernacles is a time when we deliberately lay aside all the problems of this life -- a time to live the peaceable conditions under the rulership of Christ.

Brethren, it is within our power to make this Feast the very finest occasion we have ever had. It is all a matter of will -- will to put the self aside and live the principles we all know so very well.

CURRENT EVENTS

In our local newspaper there appeared an article which gave the combined statistics regarding storms and damages for the past several months. Without doubt, last year will go down as one of the most

destructive in our lifetime. At least 700 deaths were attributed to weather-related problems. Property damage was set at \$27 billion.

Yet, when compared to the events of this year, last year seems to have been rather mild. What will be the combined loss for this year, once it is completed?

Man's memory is often quite short when it comes to bad experiences with which he has had to deal, but it does seem that weather-related problems have been considerably greater in the first two thirds of the year. It will be interesting to see just how the statistics compare once the compilation has been completed for 1984.

Many events -- those which relate to unfolding prophecy -- are mysteriously and calculatedly occurring. The awesome prophetic events of the last days do not just suddenly appear on the scene. There is a period of development. Obviously the early steps required in the development of the last-day powers and conditions are, or have been, in progress for a considerable period of time. Our problems related to understanding stem from our inability to put these situations together in a correct manner. But the events are occurring, nonetheless. The full-blown product will descend upon us and we will stand in awe and amazement, unless we are watching carefully all that is transpiring about us.

In years of major elections, real purposes are hidden more than at any other time. Do not expect much to occur until after the election. But, you can be assured much will begin to come to the surface after this election. There are those who are saying that the fabric of the United States will not be recognizable within a few months after that fateful event.

Indeed, our eyes had better be open. If we are astutely watching we will see things as they begin to unfold. We do not need prophetic insight prior to the events themselves. God will give that insight to whom He pleases and when He wills to do it. But, the general command is for all of us to watch. So, God does expect us to have basic Biblical knowledge of these last days and then be able to put fact with fact and come away with understanding when the events transpire. Consider the apostasy within the Church. Only general knowledge existed before the occurrence of the events. Now, anyone alert can see the specifics of these last-day events.

Based on the tenor of the book of Revelation, you had better keep your eyes focused on the development of the occult within the confines of the Occidental world. The East is most assuredly moving West. This is just as God told us it would be. There are whole centers developed in this country for the purpose of promulgating the eastern

philosophies. This surfacing of religious concepts is but one of the long arms of Babylonianism. No one grasps the length and breadth of the tentacles of this system. But, we do know that whatever it is it involves the people of the entire earth. It is not limited to any one specific group, people, or religious body.

ARTICLES

The situation continues just about the same as reported last month. Outlining the material accumulated on the subject of the new birth is progressing. Actual writing will commence before too long. I think you will be quite surprised by the material supplied to support the doctrinal faith initially delivered.

When time permits, much work needs to be done on the Biblical aspect of the subject of Israel and the Church. In all these subjects that we are covering, it is imperative that you remember our purpose and premise for studying and writing is to substantiate and support the original doctrine which we were taught. In all cases, this will be true -- with the exception of situations in which many changes occurred over the years; then we have sought the earlier concept or attempted to ascertain which was the more Biblical, and then allowed the people to act on their own individual faith. In such cases, it is equally imperative that those who pursue a specific concept not judge another because his faith does not correspond with that of the concerned individual. Those who have been in the Church many years longer than others have attempted to manifest love and understanding. There is no other way to maintain peace in areas where there was no absolute pursued over the years. With understanding for one another, I am sure God will ultimately make known the full dimension of Truth. When He makes it known, it becomes the duty of all of us to respond favorably and willingly.

GENERAL WORK

I want to take this opportunity to apologize for being unable to keep my correspondence up-to-date. I have a number of letters which need to be answered. Some of them will require a little study before writing. The time to do this studying and writing is very difficult to find. It does not seem logical to avoid accomplishing those duties which are required to feed the entire group in order to send a letter which will serve only one individual. For that reason, the correspondence duty takes a backseat to other duties.

Be assured, I am sending out letters weekly. It is just that I cannot get all of that work done as quickly as I should. Please be patient, you will receive an answer to your questions or requests in due time.

Many days and weeks of study are absolutely imperative on the subjects of Israel and the Church, and the new birth. This Biblical study is imperative before the articles can be written. Please pray about this need. We need much time. We also need your concern for our eyes. For this kind consideration, we heartily thank you.

NEW INTEREST

Nigeria, Africa: Mr. Imeh John Akpan spent a week with us here in Eugene. He was sent as a representative of the groups who have corresponded with us. These people are very desirous of aligning themselves with us. They were compelled to leave their mother groups for much the same reasons we were forced out of our former affiliation.

There are six congregations who have responded to our literature. There are 960 people baptized, but there are approximately 2,000 people who attend the Sabbath services. Now these people, as a result of reading our literature about the Holy Days, have presently willed to be faithful to those commands of God, too.

In order to have firsthand information, I am planning to make a trip to Nigeria this coming November. Please be praying about this trip. Your concern will be very greatly appreciated.

Besides those groups who were represented by Mr. Akpan, there are two other organizations with whom I am presently in contact. Once I have heard from them, I may be able to see them at the same time I am in Nigeria.

Telephone contacts: Amazing contacts are occurring via the telephone which seem mysterious until one realizes that God has all power and can send whom He pleases at any time He pleases. Time will tell just what the intents and purposes of the two which we have already received in the past few weeks are.

We do pray that God will send whom He pleases. Are these contacts the result of those prayers? They are coming from people who have never heard of our little group, and they are not former members of the Worldwide Church of God. The future should prove to be most interesting and encouraging. Trying to be fully responsive to God is most inspirational to those who will honor Him with implicit obedience.

PRAYER REQUESTS

[Omitted for confidentiality]

[Omitted for confidentiality]

GENERAL REQUESTS

[Omitted for confidentiality]

[Omitted for confidentiality]

BLESSINGS OF BRETHREN

[Omitted for confidentiality]

FEASTS: HOLY DAYS

Feast of Trumpets: All lead men, in their respective areas, should proceed to make whatever arrangements are necessary. No one from Eugene will be traveling out this year.

Mr. Leeman can make whatever arrangements are according to his time and availability.

All local arrangements will be made and announced on a previous Sabbath. Portland and Eugene will meet together in Eugene at the hall where we have our regular Sabbath service.

Feast of Trumpets is on Thursday, September 27, 1984. Services should be set up for both AM and PM. We will provide the tapes for the services as usual. A covered-dish meal should be prepared for the time between the services.

Day of Atonement: Sabbath, October 6, 1984. As usual there will be only one service on this day. A tape will be provided for the service.

Mr. Leeman should proceed to make whatever preparations will fit with his schedule and time. Announcements can be made in those areas which will be affected by his decision.

Local services will be held in both Eugene and Portland. Necessary information will be announced on a preceding Sabbath.

FEAST OF TABERNACLES

Most information has already been given regarding reservations, etc. One note regarding the Bend site seems necessary. The cost of the rooms at The Inn of the Seventh Mountain includes the price of the auditorium and the many activities which are afforded. Some activities are by concession. These bear a cost which must be paid by the participant.

The cost of an auditorium and the necessary electronic equipment for such a meeting is considerable. If we do not obtain an auditorium, which is included in the room cost, we must secure a hall separate from the rooms and then pay the price -- a price which is considerable. I am sure you all understand these costs. They are a part of keeping the Feast.

Regarding both Townsend and Bend, be sure your reservations are made right away. There is a cut-off date. After that date, the rooms are rented out on a "first come, first serve" basis. In such a situation you might be restricted with regard to the selection of rooms.

We are looking forward to the Feast. What an occasion it should be for all of us. Please be praying about the Feast. It will be exactly what we will it to be. God will not force joy and happiness upon us. We will be the recipients of such characteristics only if we will them to be produced in our lives and then pray that God will back up that will and purpose.

TRIPS

Outside of the trips made during the Feast of Tabernacles, the only one being planned right now is the one to Nigeria in November. More will be said about this trip at a later date.

Must bring this Announcement Letter to a close. It is already quite long.

We fondly convey our love and respect to you all. Again, thank you very much for allowing us this privilege of serving you. It has been a very great blessing.

With much love and respect,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Raymond C. Cole". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Raymond C. Cole

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bryce G. Clark". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Bryce G. Clark