

# Church of God, The Eternal

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## ANNOUNCEMENT LETTER JANUARY 1985

Dear Brethren:

As the world would have it, we have now commenced a new year. What lies ahead for humanity? In the calendar year of 1984 much more transpired than is commonly or generally realized. Usually the significance of events is not comprehended until the reality of intents and purposes is seen. Then people exclaim, "How could this have happened?"

What we must never lose sight of regarding the future is this: The reality of last-day prophecies must begin to unfold somewhere and at some given time. We in all probability will not know the exact times and identities of these prophecies, but we can certainly exercise the basic inherent purposes underscoring the necessity of the events -- that is, we can effect the necessary changes in our own lives and thoughts.

Will many of these last-day events begin to manifest themselves in conditions and circumstances of the day? I think we are all aware that life for many, the economy of the world, education and religion in general, crime and terrorism internationally, and universal political machinations are more puzzling and frightening than ever. It, indeed, would be hard to anticipate any betterment in any of these areas. The fundamental tendency of man is to degenerate, not to change for the better. In all probability, 1985 will be a year in which major moves and schemes will occur in the final conspiracy intended to dominate the world just before the return of Christ. The most that can be said is this: Be alert, ever watchful; but, do not assume anything. Keep close to God in study and prayer.

### CURRENT EVENTS

There is considerable "information" circulating about the country generally prognosticating the beginning of a banner cycle for the world, but with specific emphasis on the United States. This may actually be true; there are some indications in the Bible that the economy and general conditions are to be hailed as a great breakthrough in man's efforts to solve his own ills. However, the Bible clearly tells us that on the heels of this apparent breakthrough the bottom

will fall out of everything, culminating in startling destruction. The world will stand in awe of the turmoil and how it could have happened.

What should you as a Christian do? Keep yourself guarded, emotionally, mentally, economically, and above all religiously. Do not get drawn into the hype that the world has solved its own problems. Have confidence in God. Know that those things which have been written concerning these last days will definitely come to pass. We know that as a fact, even though we cannot know the specifics about the events which are destined to occur. There are dark and foreboding clouds predicted for the future. It is a day which is not to be eagerly sought, as the Bible clearly explains. It is a day of sorrow and anxiety.

### **ARTICLES**

The subject of Israel: With the completion of the article on the subject of, among other concepts, the new birth, we are ready to begin work with renewed vigor on the subject of Israel. We have mentally tossed this subject around for some time attempting to determine just what approach to take in writing it. We do not want to get caught in the customary approach of those who are attempting to grind axes regarding their own pet theories. Several major organizations have done this, leaving themselves open to unsavory scrutiny and ridicule. For this reason, we will probably use the Bible as the strict basis for the article, supporting the doctrine with other pertinent material. This approach seems to us to be the very best one.

Sometime in early 1985 you will be receiving the article on the new birth, which we have just completed. It is about ready for the press and then the following collating and other preparations prior to mailing. Please be patient, it should be in your hands before too much more time passes.

### **NEW INTEREST**

Nigeria: I had a very successful trip to this African country. Personal acquaintance with the country and the people involved enable me to develop the study material which is needed. That study material will be developed here in the office and then sent to select men in Nigeria who will in turn teach the people those Truths. Please remember these people in your prayers. Also, please remember us as we work on the necessary basic material to teach our remote brothers and sisters the priceless Truths which we have been privileged to know and understand.

Hawaii: There is some interest reestablished in the Hawaiian Islands. Please be praying about this possibility. Growth there would be most welcome by the faithful who have borne isolation for a number of years.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

[Omitted for confidentiality]

**GENERAL REQUESTS**

[Omitted for confidentiality]

[Omitted for confidentiality]

### FEAST OF TABERNACLES

Necessary contacts prior to making a final decision regarding the site for the 1985 Feast have not yet been made. Please continue to pray for God's special intervention in this matter. As soon as possible those contacts will be made. We need this initial information early in the year.

### TRIPS

This year I am going to try something new. The 1985 trip schedule will be sent to the entire mailing list. In this way you will be aware of the times when one of us will be visiting in your area. Of course, there will be changes at various times. But it may be easier to apprise you of those changes than to send information each month, in advance of the actual trip, regarding the location where a special meeting will be held. In any event, we will try to keep you apprised of our activities well in advance so that you can plan accordingly.

As indicated in the accompanying schedule, I will be in the Dallas, Texas, area for the Sabbath of January 26 and in the Upland, California, area for the Sabbath of February 2. Arrangements may be made for those two areas at the discretion of those responsible. Looking forward to seeing all of you involved in those two areas.

Itineraries will be sent to responsible individuals as soon as travel arrangements have been completed.

### COMMENTS

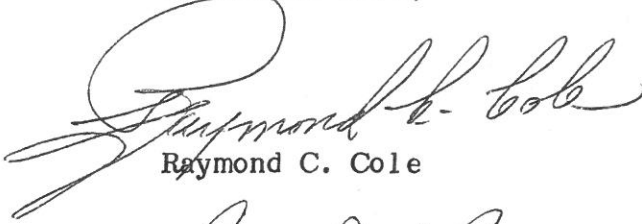
Mr. Keven McCammon and Miss Melanie Roberts wish, at this time, to announce their engagement. We wish all the best for them.

### CONCLUSION

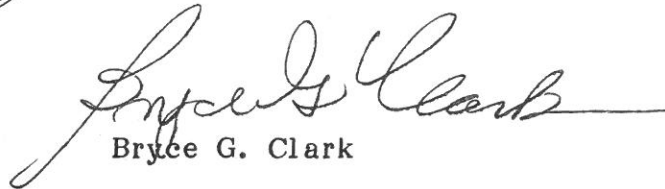
One final thought: Information is beginning to sift out about the hazards of sulfites for preserving foods -- used broadly in the marketing of many food items. Quick death can result for anyone who may have an unknown allergic reaction to these sulfites. Therein lies the real danger. Such reactions are not usually known until they are life-threatening. I won't say more for the present. Just be advised -- be careful.

Once again, all our continued love and thoughts of kindness to you. We do remember you fondly and sincerely desire your continued love and affection. Thoughts and kindness daily.

With much love,

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