

Church of God, The Eternal

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ANNOUNCEMENT LETTER AUGUST 1985

Dear Brethren:

At the end of next month we will once again be gathering to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. The year 1985 is now well advanced and will soon be history. But, what a year it has been. And who knows for sure what will yet transpire in the remainder of the year!

World conditions are growing more volatile. Though we have had a brief reprieve from recessionary circumstances, this year, thus far, has been the most devastating economically. Remember conditions in the states of Ohio, Maryland, and others. Circumstances exist for even more tragic consequences in the next few months.

When has terrorism been more blatant against the United States? We have become the prime target for every evil intent of unbalanced people. Why? We are being held accountable for all the problems experienced by all peoples around the world. It is a calculated posture designed and exercised for the purpose of making us feel guilty for our affluence and success.

When we take the time to probe below the surface considerations, we are made aware that the real cause is not physical but spiritual. Satan knows who we are. He is endeavoring with great aggressiveness to reduce the people of God, physically, and to bring to naught the purposes of the Creator.

I have just returned from one of our scheduled trips. The last day acceptable for the writing of the Announcement Letter is here. Therefore, it will be imperative to make this issue shorter than might otherwise be written. Let us get to the basic information.

ARTICLES

Although much research must yet be done before the article on Israel and the Church can be written, Mr. Clark is planning to cover some historical aspects of the subject at the Feast this Fall. We are

hoping that the compilation of data and the actual writing of the article can be done next year. However, like the wine advertisement, we will do no writing before it's time.

NEW INTEREST

Interest in the Truth continues in many areas. However, accompanying that interest is a comparable element of confusion. So many are troubled by a host of events, rumors, and circumstances. How greatly we should be praying for these people.

In another way, the problem could be ours. How many of us have our feet of faith down solidly? As long as we manifest doubts, questions, disagreements, and internal conflict, God will not add new people to that body which is unable to receive them in a correct spirit and with a fervent conviction. Oneness is the way by which we are identified. Division and strife are not of God.

Will God hold some of us accountable for the lack of faithful response on the part of children whom He called earlier? It is a very serious matter -- one that we, individually, must ponder. Praying for these people will be of little value unless our prayers are backed up by action.

PRAYER REQUESTS

[Omitted for confidentiality]

GENERAL REQUESTS

[Omitted for confidentiality]

[Omitted for confidentiality]

BLESSINGS OF BRETHREN

Mr. Robert Carter: He is now out of the hospital and doing quite well. God was very merciful. Usually 80% of those who are taken into the hospital with the type of heart condition Mr. Carter experiences die within days. Once the anointed cloth was applied he began to improve and was removed from the hospital within days. He and his wife are most grateful.

While in Baltimore, Maryland, for the Sabbath service of July 20, I arranged for the people of that area to have an official service once a month, the first Sabbath of the month, at a meeting room provided by the Shoney Motel. This should prove to be a very great blessing for all the people of the Baltimore area.

On this trip I counselled Mr. John Winant -- son of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Winant -- for baptism. He has been approved. The baptism will occur at the Feast this Fall so that his parents can be present. Indeed, there is rejoicing in heaven and I am sure the saints here on earth are elated.

FEASTS: HOLY DAYS

Feast of Trumpets: All lead men may begin to make appropriate arrangements for this service. As usual, tapes will be made for the occasion.

Myra and I will be in Southern California for this service. We are looking forward to seeing all our loved ones in that area.

Mr. Clark will remain in Eugene for a combined service here. There will be a covered-dish meal between the morning and afternoon services. Atonement is the only Holy Day on which we do not have both a morning and an afternoon service.

Feast of Trumpets this year falls on a Monday, September 16. It is only six weeks away. After Trumpets, it is only a matter of days until we will be congregating for the Fall Feast of Tabernacles. How greatly we all need that time together.

Atonement: This year the date is Wednesday, September 25. This is a day of careful introspection. There is no doubt we all need this occasion, too.

Necessary arrangements may be made for this day. As indicated above, usually there is but one meeting.

Mr. George Leeman and Mr. John Mitchell may make whatever arrangements are convenient for them. Of course, Mr. Jean Aviolat and Mr. John Akpan will make necessary arrangements for the brethren in their respective areas.

FEAST OF TABERNACLES

This year, since the opening service is Sunday evening, September 29, a Sabbath service is planned for Sabbath, September 28, in the Townsend, Tennessee, area. The time of the service will be 1:30 PM at the same hall where the regular Feast services will be conducted.

If at all possible, either Mr. George Leeman or Mr. John Mitchell will be present for the service. I have not yet had opportunity to contact either one regarding their schedules. If no minister can be present, a taped sermon will be used. Much good fellowship can be realized regardless of whether a tape is used or a minister is present.

Feast schedules and detailed information will be available at the office in each Feast location. We are presently working on that information. As soon as all the information is gathered together the necessary forms will be completed and printed. Everyone should pick up this information as early as possible in order to ascertain appointed responsibility. In some cases there will be direct contact by personal letter. This will occur for those who will bear significant organizational charge.

Social activities for the young and old alike will again be planned for both sites. Mr. Jon Brisby and Miss Kim Chance will again be responsible for these activities in the Townsend area. Miss Wendy Granberg and someone to be chosen later will assume organizational responsibility for the Newport area.

Those who are responsible should put together a suggested program for each area and send it to us at the earliest possible date. We will review those suggestions and give final approval or make corrective suggestions. Time is of the essence now.

TRIPS

Baltimore, Maryland: A wonderful service was granted by God. It was so good to see all the faithful there on the Sabbath of July 20. As ministers, we do appreciate your love and affection. How sorry we are that these contacts cannot be accomplished more frequently. But, I am sure you understand the limits and constraints imposed upon us. When God wills He can change those circumstances. Therefore, we must take things in stride and accept that which God has allowed to transpire.

On July 27, Sabbath, I was privileged to experience a very rewarding and meaningful service. God blessed the little group in Nashville with a healthy increase of very interested new people. Indeed, the Spirit of God is still very active in some sections of the country. We are most grateful for any activity which God allows us to experience. Our prayers and thoughts are with these very fine people who are sorting out issues and difficulties.

On Sunday, July 28, Mr. Keven McCammon and Miss Melanie Roberts were united in marriage. God gave a very fine day for the wedding. It was overcast, thus reducing the suffering some would have experienced if the day had been sunshiny and hot. Indeed, God does care for His children.

COMMENTS -- LETTERS

Recently we have been made knowledgeable of commercially available cassettes of the Old and New Testament. Several have been secured by members here in the Eugene area. They are very reasonable. The New Testament costs only \$12.50 per set plus postage. The Old Testament costs \$48.00 per set plus postage.

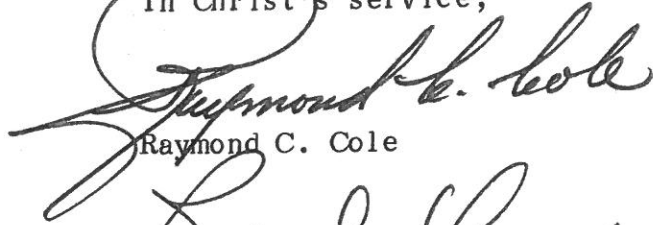
Most have elected to purchase the New Testament set only. They are excellent for listening to while driving since they are generally

more understandable. Usually more concentration is required to grasp what is being read from the Old Testament.

Since we have tried the usage of these New Testament cassettes here in Eugene and found them to be helpful and inspirational, we did want to make the opportunity available to all of you. If there are any who may be interested, please indicate your wishes by return mail. We will be most happy to help you to secure a set -- anyone who may wish to take advantage of this opportunity.

All our love and affection until next time. Our lives are commended to your service.

In Christ's service,

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