

# Church of God, The Eternal

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## ANNOUNCEMENT LETTER November 1985

Dear Brethren:

We come to you this month with many warm and kind thoughts toward you all -- remembering a marvelous Feast of Tabernacles this year. Long ago I made up my mind that no one was going to take my joy and happiness derived from the observance of the Feasts away from me. Each of us alone can insure our happiness and sense of spiritual confidence by willing to disallow the unhappiness and misery others would bequeath us if we were to allow it.

Happiness comes from a deep sense of love and respect without partiality. When we are close to God and His Son Jesus Christ, it is not possible for us to manifest contempt and disrespect for other members of the spiritual family of God. We are His children; we do not belong to one another. What a purchase price was paid! If we can but remember these facts, our love and respect for one another would grow without limits. I long for the day when I can see the display of this unbridled Godly love and affection on the part of everyone that has been called and makes a claim to be a servant of God. In hearts filled with love and affection there is no room for hate and animosity.

With love and compassion there is no limit to what can be achieved spiritually. In these last days of darkness and gloom, we have a most glorious opportunity to manifest such affectionate regard. And how greatly we all need it. Is there a one who does not need the care, prayerful concern, and goodwill of others? Our trials are only going to augment. Should not the love and affection needed be augmented in proportion to the need of the times?

### CURRENT EVENTS

Terrorism is still on the march. It is a frightening reality in most parts of the world. But, have you noticed that the objective of all such efforts seems to be to discredit the United States? No matter what we do, we are painted, by the modern media, as evil, black, and villainous. This can happen in this country because red-tinged

reactionaries are free to roam about unimpeded. Can you imagine such reactionaries being so favored in totalitarian countries? We have ample evidence to show that those who voice objections to current rule are eliminated without due process of law.

We seem to be sick. We have lost the will to stand tall and be unafraid to stand by our convictions. Commonly many writers have termed the illness as a form of guilt complex manifested because of our blessings and greatness received as a result of God's Providence toward us. What a tragedy! We have squandered our largess. We hang our heads in shame because of who and what we are.

We could have helped the world to reap great and significant blessings, too. Instead, we compromise our principles, ethics, and purposes attempting to alleviate the guilt. The situation reminds me of the sad picture of a very tall man attempting to shrink to the size of an average man because of his self-consciousness. Such behavior makes neither man better.

Brethren, you and I have the opportunity to live confidently the Truth which we have been given. Let us not shrink from that responsibility because we are embarrassed or ashamed of our own peculiarities. Then, let us temper that confidence with hospitality, warmth, love, understanding, and compassion. Can you imagine how the world would have viewed the United States if they had behaved in a comparable fashion?

We must ponder the above thoughts consistently. The called of God are the lights of the world. The serious question, however, is this: Just how much light is there in this world of wretchedness, misery, and self-gratification? From our vantage point, it is beginning to look very much like a world steeped in darkness -- a frightening prospect. In such a time our faith and conviction must be kept alive and flourishing. Though the accomplishment of faith and determination is by the indwelling presence of the Spirit of God, such an eventuality cannot transpire until we, individually, manifest will and purpose. Therefore, the initial step is for us to make up our minds to be faithful -- effecting the necessary changes in our own lives.

## ARTICLES

1. A synopsis of the marriage tapes: Because clarifications became necessary, and so that you might have a written form of the material, we decided that it was necessary to write this article. It is enclosed with the mailing of this Letter.

2. Israel and the Church: Research work continues. It is our hope to yet find all the necessary material to make as clear as possible the subject. Our interest is not in the prophetic dimension of the subject; rather, we want to make available subject material required to understand more completely those principles which affect us on a daily basis. Add to that the need to understand more fully the meaning and dimension of the church in the last days.

3. The calendar article: Mr. Robert Jacobs did most of the study for the preparation of this article. It was a personal sacrifice on his part. Since he has elected to remain anonymous for the time being, the article production will suffer. We have attempted to secure the necessary research work which he has already completed; but up to this time we have not received anything from him. If we are forced to do this article from the beginning of research on through to final production, it will take a great deal of time. That is time which we do not have at the present time -- there is much work to be done on the other articles which we have undertaken. Please be patient. We will see in due time what can be done about the completion of the article.

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

[Omitted for confidentiality]

[Omitted for confidentiality]

GENERAL REQUESTS

BLESSINGS OF BRETHREN

[Omitted for confidentiality]

## FEAST OF TABERNACLES

May we take this opportunity to personally thank those who so generously contributed to the second tithe account. You made the difference for many people this year. I am sure these people would want me to express a genuine thank you for them, also. So, we all say thank you for your generous sacrifice. It did much good this year.

## TRIPS

1. On November 2, Mr. John Mitchell will be with the brethren in Southern California. We do hope that they have a marvelous meeting -- with enriching fellowship. Our prayers will be with them.

2. On November 30, Mr. Clark will be in Baltimore for the Sabbath service. Appropriate arrangements should be made for the occasion. Then on December 4, Wednesday, Mr. Clark will fly from Baltimore to the Dallas/Fort Worth area. On December 7, Sabbath, Mr. Clark will be in the Dallas area for the Sabbath service. Appropriate arrangements may be made for this occasion.

As always, we do look forward to seeing those of you who are scattered across the nation -- where small groups can get together for the weekly service. The success of any such trips and meetings will entirely depend upon the prayers of us all.

## OFFICE

Some have elected to send tithes and tape costs in one check. This is perfectly acceptable. However, would you help us in our book-keeping? We need to know how much of the check belongs in each category. For your kind and thoughtful help, we thank you.

Our tape return has been extremely low for the past several months. Would you kindly check to see if you may have a number of used tapes which need to be returned? We will greatly appreciate your help in this matter, too.

## COMMENTS

A number of you bought the Bible cassette tapes -- both Old and New Testaments. Some of you have found that you received bad tapes. We can rectify this problem easily. Here is what you need to do. Please send a note to us, indicating what tape, or tapes, is/are bad. Be sure to indicate which Testament is involved -- Old or New. Also,

it will be necessary to indicate which narrator -- we now have two different series. Then return the tape to us. We will contact the company. They have been very good about sending replacements.

Must bring this to a close for this time. Since the Feast, we have been unable to catch up on all the work which accumulates during that period of time. Your prayers will greatly help. We do pray for and remember you all daily. Thank you for being there as the faithful and loyal servants of God.

Much love and affection always,

  
Raymond C. Cole

  
Bryce G. Clark