

Church of God, The Eternal

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ANNOUNCEMENT LETTER
December 1985

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Dear Brethren:

Two months have now passed since the conclusion of the Feast of Tabernacles. Already certain preparations have been, and are being, made for the early Spring Holy Days. Though the dark aspect of Winter characterizes man outside of the central activity of God, the period of time does not seem to last long. Before we are intensely aware of the passing of time, we are again caught up in the joyous activity which surrounds acceptable obedience to the statutes of God. Yearly, I am made more aware of the meaning of David's exclamations of how greatly he thrilled to the active participation in the observance of the laws, statutes, and judgments of God. In the same vein, we can understand the meaning of Jesus' statement: "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them" (John 13:17).

If we are not deriving the maximum joy, anticipation, excitement, and enlargement of heart, there is something amiss. It is a warning of danger -- a need to truly examine the self and to set our orientation aright mentally. Ultimate failure can only occur if we fail to recognize the preceding warning signals and refuse to do something about them -- at the time they are observed. I know you brethren did not weather the storms of the past just to come up short in the final end-time responsibility. I have greater confidence in you and the call which God gave to you. It is impossible for me to believe that God called you to effect a more convincing resolve as a result of the trials experienced in these last days and then would allow you to fail in your final responsibilities. However, in order that we will not fail, God may allow a variety of sore trials in order to forge within us a more acceptable attitude and orientation in life. What we want to experience may, in part, be left up to us. If a little correction brings about the necessary changes, larger and more comprehensive correction may not be necessary. We need to think soberly and seriously in these times of trial and refinement.

CURRENT EVENTS

Circumstances and conditions still indicate the rapid fulfillment of generalized events of the last days. It is not our intention to say much about the events of the last days in this issue of the Announcement Letter. One thought only we wish to leave with you: Fully developed events do not develop over night. The underlying fabric of the terrifying events prognosticated for our day is being developed on a day-by-day basis. It is in the making now. With careful observation, accompanied by a refusal to get specific about times, events, and places, we can and will be properly warned and prepared for anything

which is destined to occur. This careful observation must be accompanied by a daily review of the Biblical words regarding the events which God indicated would transpire.

ARTICLES

Work continues on the subject of Israel and the Church. New information surfaces on a frequent basis. Your prayers are much encouraged, for the completion of this article will largely depend on what God makes known about several components yet quite mysterious to us. Have no fear. We know who Israel is. But that knowledge is almost irrelevant to other more pressing parts.

We have had some excellent comments about the brief summary article on the subject of marriage/divorce/remarriage. Thank you for your comments. It was our pleasure to serve you in this way.

PRAYER REQUESTS

[Omitted for confidentiality]

GENERAL REQUESTS

Remember the families of Mrs. Benita Lozano: Mrs. Lozano was buried on Friday, November 15. She had not experienced a long illness. Her death was a shock to all who really knew her. Is it possible that God is taking some from the terrible conditions confronting us in these last days?

All the family do express their gratitude to those who prayed and responded so affectionately to the needs of Mrs. Lozano. The family is very grateful that she died so peacefully. Truly those who understand do not sorrow as those who have no such hope.

It was the season. On Sunday, November 17, Mr. Bill Sawyer was buried. He had not suffered for any length of time, either. A quick heart attack apparently was responsible for his death. Once again, for those of us who understand, we can realize and appreciate the great love and affection shown in his easy death. He will not have to face the problems of the future.

Please remember those left behind. Only God knows what purposes have yet to be fulfilled.

[Omitted for confidentiality]

BLESSINGS OF BRETHREN

Mr. Harold Dickson: He is most appreciative of the prayers of you all regarding his son. He is much improved. The son now wishes to continue his education. You might remember this venture, also.

Mrs. Bud Kidwell: Her blood count had dropped to alarming levels. She was virtually a dead woman. A large tumor was removed and she now seems to be progressing nicely. God is deeply concerned for His own. We do hope and pray for a very rapid recovery.

Mr. C. E. Leukering: He wishes to thank everyone for past prayers. His condition has greatly improved. He does request that we continue to remember him in our prayers until the condition is completely resolved.

TRIPS

Mr. Clark's trip to Baltimore and Dallas: All is going well as far as we have heard. Since he is still on the trip, we will wait until next month's Letter to give more detail.

Trip to Springfield, Missouri: I (R.C.C.) will be in Springfield, Missouri, for a Sabbath service on January 11, 1986. This will be a first for that area. No specifics have been arranged yet. These will be made and then followed by a general letter to members in that area.

OFFICE: PROGRAMS AND NEEDS

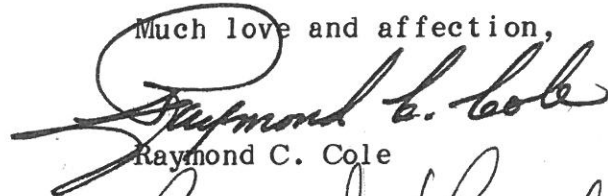
Computer System: At the Feast this year, the Board gave authorization to upgrade the computer system. Rather than add personnel to the payroll, it is better to use the advanced technology which is available to us at the present time. Since we have put much emphasis on the development of music in our little group, it would pay us handsomely to acquire a computer system which will handle the bulk of the routine work -- scoring, printing, etc. This purchase will allow for a more efficient usage of Mr. King's time, as well as allowing a very great upgrading of our own office system. We have been looking for adequate systems for a number of months -- not wanting to make a mistake in such a large purchase. The direction which we should take

is becoming increasingly clear to us. Once the system is purchased and we have it operable, you will not only see the difference, but we will also write more about it so that you will not be left in the dark. We do want you to know what is occurring.

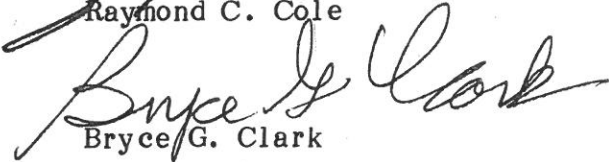
Office Building: For years the office for the church has been here in my home -- a section of the house, the two-story garage, which we completely refurbished for this function. For many months we have literally been unable to correctly function within these confines. Either we must consider building a building for the office, or we must consider the possibility of renting appropriate space. To rent we are looking at a \$12,000 to \$15,000 annual outlay. Such a loss of money goes against the grain with me. I would rather use the rental money as basic money for the purchase of materials. The labor costs would not be great. Before any consideration is firmed up, we will have a Board Meeting, making sure that we get the input of all the members. At the same time, it might be most beneficial if all of you would like to make a comment about this situation. We always love to hear from you.

Must close for this time. Our thoughts of love and kindness are always on your behalf. We love you as the children of God. May you be richly blessed and protected in these trying and difficult times.

Much love and affection,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Raymond C. Cole". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Raymond C. Cole

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bryce G. Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Bryce G. Clark

P.S.

Some further prayer requests were received after the Announcement Letter went to press:

Mrs. Richaud (Grenoble, France): Earlier in the year she experienced some form of stroke. She is not doing well at the present time. Let us all pray for her speedy recovery.

Mrs. l'Herondelle (Grenoble, France): She can't walk, and is now in a wheelchair. She was taken to a care center but was terribly dissatisfied. Wants to return to her own home. All the prayers of the saints are greatly needed.