

# Church of God, The Eternal

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## ANNOUNCEMENT LETTER

February 1986

Dear Brethren:

Warm and affectionate greetings to you all. How many times we think of you all and sincerely desire to spend time with those scattered throughout the world. Yet the constraints of time and work will not allow this luxury. We do try as effectively as we know how to commute out into those areas where we can maximize our endeavor for the limited time available. Thank you for the understanding and patience you have all so thoroughly manifested. Our prayers and thoughts of kindness are unceasing.

### Current Events

There is something ominous about the events of the last few weeks. Even though we cannot understand the reality and meaning of these events, we must not allow ourselves to be drugged by the opiate of indifference, doubt, hardness, or by a critical posture. There is something which God requires us to watch and about which we must become emotionally involved. God's instruction is not for naught.

What are some of those events? The passing from the scene of a number of devoted, faithful members. Aged, yes! But that factor alone cannot answer all the fundamental questions involved in these dramatic circumstances. Are they taken from the evils to come? What was the purpose of this great loss in so short a time?

The death of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong. For those who understand in part what happened in the catastrophic years, 1972 - 1974, the death of Mr. Armstrong seemingly represents the passing of an era. It forebodes significant and troubling events. We are aware of the Biblical indications relevant to this time -- events which will most directly affect the church which once taught the Truth. This event precipitated an emotional response of great sorrow by those of us here at Eugene. We can now only wonder what lies ahead. Whatever it is, we know for certain the picture is not one to produce optimistic exuberance. I hope we are all prepared for the events which lie in front of us.

What once was a far-off, merely read-about reality has become a nightmare in the United States -- terrorism. It has affected travel and tourism in general. The reality of it has affected the response of nearly every department of the Federal government. When there is no sanctity to life, there is no fear. When there is no fear for one's own personal life, there is no constraint to maintain basic order in a legally constituted society. As bad as these purposes are, these people are dying for cause. Surely Christians should understand that action.

What is most devastating is the fear of an uncontrollable spread of virulent diseases. At this time, fear almost reigns. Yet the real truth cannot be advanced due to highly specialized interests. Some people, lifestyles, and ordinary practices are going to be indicted eventually. What is happening to this world is the consequence of man's rebellion against God. There is no way science, the world's god, can make these consequences go away. They are going to become more devastating and lethal. Will our faith sustain us?

Other events and circumstances could be mentioned; however, it is not deemed imperative or even needful at this present time. The above points illustrate the severity of the times in which we live. Has our confidence been tested? Are we questioning or troubled? Do we have our faith and personal conviction in order? You will never endure if you have not purposed that resolve now -- in the better times of our own existence. Do not wait to shore up faith and conviction until the day the need exists. That time is too late!

### Articles

It has become imperative to interrupt the work on the article regarding the subject of Israel and the Church. There is sufficient need to warrant an all-out effort to produce basic articles on subjects required for instruction and growth of new people. We have deemed this a priority at the present time. These articles will be rather short and to the point. We hope that we can be successful in writing this basic material. Please pray about it. Once we have secured the necessary components for our computer system, we will be able to return to the production of the Israel/Church article. A particular piece of equipment will save us literally hundreds of man-hours. Please be praying about this need, and for the success of the basic articles. For this help, we do sincerely thank you.

Prayer Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

General Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Blessings of Brethren

[Omitted for confidentiality]

[Omitted for confidentiality]

### Trips

Mr. Bryce Clark will be in the Knoxville, Tennessee, area for Sabbath services, February 1, and in the Mount Pocono, Pennsylvania, area for Sabbath, February 8. All arrangements have been made for these two meetings.

I will be in the Vancouver, B. C., Canada, area for Sabbath services on February 15. In all probability we will meet over on the island so that Mrs. Anne Burns and her daughter will also be privileged to be with us for the service. Final arrangements will be handled by Mr. Rick Cartier.

I will be in Hawaii for Sabbath services the last part of February and the first part of March. Necessary arrangements have already been made.

### Office -- Programs -- Needs

We have not been satisfied with the quality of tapes we are producing on a week-by-week basis. I have asked George to review the equipment needs -- needs which if met will bring the quality back up to the earlier level. You can help by letting us know what you are receiving and what needs to be done. Please do not allow problems to just pass by. We want to know. Without input from you, we cannot continually monitor the quality of the program.

As I have said so many times, we have just two things to sell, or give away: The first is the Truth and the other is the quality image which that Truth must produce in us. God's character is such that nothing is done in a careless manner. We must emulate Him.

Concerning tape 10 of the "Darkness versus Light" series: There is no tape 10. Somehow, in numbering a jump was made from number 9 to number 11.

Buying Feast of Tabernacles tapes: Beginning in 1986 we are not selling any tapes. We have endeavored to purchase the tapes in sufficient quantities so that your purchases are not necessary. You may keep the tapes as long as you wish. If the people want to relisten to the tapes, we will be most happy to simply leave them with those who

are desirous of further listening. The tapes are made to serve the people. No tapes, whatsoever, need be returned; any that are returned, however, will be appreciated.

Mrs. May of Germantown, Maryland, died just a few days ago. Mr. Leeman was able to conduct the funeral service. Mr. May writes: "I am doing OK all things considered. I was in the hospital with Margaret. I was holding her hand when she prayed to God to take her. In 15 minutes she was gone." Mrs. May was in her 90s. We thank God for her example of dedication. She will be missed by all who knew her well. Our love and sympathy go out to Mr. May.

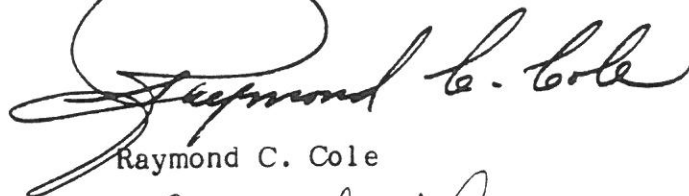
Mrs. L'Herondelle of Grenoble, France, died. She, too, was very aged. Her dedication and sacrifice were exemplary. She will be missed. But her rest will be peaceful until the day she comes forth in the resurrection.

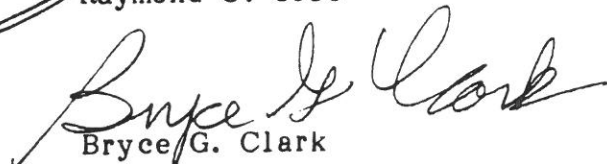
The Gnostic Connection: This book was specifically written for the members. It is not on the general lists which are sent out when requested. Therefore some may not be aware of its existence. If you are a member of the little body, as are all those who receive the Announcement Letter, you are entitled to this publication. As stated earlier, this work was written for the members only. It is not available for general consumption. It is simply too costly for general distribution. By actual computation the price of a copy would have to be in excess of \$100. I cannot conceive of anyone desiring to pay that amount for a reference work.

Again, all members are entitled to The Gnostic Connection. It is specifically written for you. You have already "paid" for your copy.

With much love and affection we remember you all. Your daily prayers and thoughts of kindness toward us are always appreciated. We always look forward to being with you for the limited times afforded.

As always, your faithful servants,

  
Raymond C. Cole

  
Bryce G. Clark