

Church of God, The Eternal

P. O. Box 775
Eugene, Oregon 97440

Switzerland
Case Postale 2 701
CH 1002 Lausanne

Canada
P. O. Box 76946, Station "S"
Vancouver, B.C. V5R 5T3

ANNOUNCEMENT LETTER November 1986

Warm and affectionate greetings:

The Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day of 1986 are history. And what a Feast it was. Truly, the basic spirit of the Kingdom of God was manifested. Though as human beings we are impressed with the desire to manifest, occasionally, the dictates of the carnal flesh and natural mind, a concentrated effort was made by all to subdue the self and live the Truth (Way) of God. What a joy and rewarding experience for all who really wanted to manifest the character of God and His Son, Jesus Christ.

As the servants of Jesus Christ, we -- the ministry -- can only express deep appreciation and admiration for the spiritual will manifested. As God's people, you took to heart requests and instructions. As God's obedient children, you will be the recipients of His rewards and should be the beneficiaries of praise from His human servants. We would be derelict if we failed to highly commend you for willful obedience.

CURRENT EVENTS

For this month, we want to present a single concept. As astute Christians you are admonished to watch world events as they relate to unfolding last-day prophecies. Be alert, watch, but resist the natural tendency to ascribe specific dates and significance to these events.

This month: Watch the growing dichotomy of wage and economic returns experienced by America's labor force, specifically. To create an effective control feature, it is essential to divide the masses. By advancing, significantly, the wages of a segment of the work force, while at the same time depressing the wages of a larger segment of society, a "perfect" control feature has been generated.

If the past employment of this tactic is an indication of what lies ahead of us, we have yet to realize the full potential of this lethal mechanism. Americans have been set up for this situation by the past enjoyment of an artificial economic boom -- an economy that became the greatest ever experienced in all human history. With the creation of this artificial expansion of the

economy, we have gained luxuries heretofore unobtainable. Can you imagine what uncontrolled human nature will do when it is deprived of these luxuries?

Watch, indeed, we must!

ARTICLES

Another of the shorter articles on basic doctrines is submitted with this letter for this month. We hope you will enjoy it.

Work will continue on larger subjects. Just as soon as acceptable computer equipment becomes available, avoiding the excessive cost of hand, or human, work, we will recommence work on the subject of Israel and the Church.

PRAYER REQUESTS

[Omitted for confidentiality]

BLESSINGS OF BRETHREN

[Omitted for confidentiality]

TRIPS

Because it is so soon after the Feast of Tabernacles, the Canadian bi-monthly trip scheduled for December 1986 will be cancelled.

December 5-21, Myra and I will be in Hawaii and on back to San Diego, California. We will be in Southern California for the Sabbath service of December 20, 1986. Itineraries will be sent to representatives of the two areas.

GENERAL COMMENTS

The Feast of Tabernacles and Last Great Day is scheduled to be held in Townsend, Tennessee, and Newport, Oregon, in 1987.

Regarding the selection of the new church board member, the choice of candidates and approval rests with the membership entirely. This year, due to a general requirement that a quorum be available locally, the people chose Mr. Frank Sheffold. Local quorum requirement has become a moot point, as we shall now see.

Considering the grave difficulties involved in an attempt to coalesce the board activities from two geographic areas far removed from each other, it was decided to eliminate the problem by having all board members meet henceforth at the Oregon (or West Coast) site of the Feast. This will overcome a number of problems, including the selection of a board member who can fulfill the offices of Chairman and Secretary, as well as others. Henceforward, the quorum can be selected from the local area; and the other three posts can be filled by members from any part of the U.S.A. or Canada.

The reason for the selection of a second Feast site was to enhance attendance potential for the people, not to create an internal problem regarding a board -- which is not even of God. The board is a simple functioning body required to satisfy the dictates of a state or the Federal Government. As we all know and understand, that board cannot interrupt or alter the organization and responsibility dictated by God. None of us want that.

We have tried with all that resides in us to manifest a form of confidence in you as the people of God -- chosen to remain faithful to the will of God. Despite the terrible ministerial mistakes of the past, we sincerely hope we have given no one a reason to doubt our integrity and loyalty to the true principles of God.

The geographic problems generated by the creation of a second Feast site can be overcome easily. We must remember our purpose of oneness. Schedules, services, music, programs, etc., are all standardized. It is the only way acceptable to God.

The creation of two sites gives more men opportunity of service, leadership. Leadership, in the eyes of God, is a demand for total cooperation -- rejection of self and the ability to work in harmony with the objectives of the total body. We, as servants of God, cannot do as we please. Principles which go back all the way to the foundations of our former affiliation must rule. These we cannot tamper with or alter. One example is music. The quality of music was determined by God's servant long before most of you knew there was a true body of Jesus Christ. All we are trying to do is uphold those standards in all things. Some do not seem to understand this. Their criticism notwithstanding, we will continue to uphold those high ideals and objectives. We have no greater purpose.

Let us all refuse to allow secondary issues to destroy our fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles -- to keep the Feast, hear the truths of God, and keep (experience) a foretaste of the Kingdom of God.

The issue of "limiting terms" of board members was discussed at the annual board meeting. Based upon wise counsel, the concept was rejected. Limitations, restrictions, and other forms of regimented control are not of God. They are a part of the Babylonian system of this world. Such restrictions are a form of controlling someone else -- an attempt to compel another party to comply with the wishes of another. To the one advocating such a restriction it sounds good. But that same party would not want such a control exercised over him. True freedom cannot exist under such controls.

The board has nothing to do with the spiritual issues of life. Those are absolute. Since the continuation of the board, selection of members, etc., is a function of consensus, why should we not allow the people the option to make their own choices? There is technically nothing illegal about making such choices. Further, such a binding restriction limiting who is chosen could conceivably impair efficient functioning of the board. We would not want that.

We do want all people of the church represented. We have taken steps to correct any real or perceived injustices in that regard.

In a spirit of helpfulness and cooperation, we earnestly and genuinely seek the help of every member of the church -- especially those on the board. The members of the board are our chief counsellors. We value and broadly solicit that help.

Regionalism is not of God. The body is one. Any time there is, of necessity, a split in the body, opportunities for abuse, jealousy, comparisons, etc., abound. Knowing these possibilities, we of the ministry have gone out of our way to address that human defect. We have not given any superior consideration to one site over the other one in the U.S.A. But remember, the possibility of defect does not only lie with the ministry. You, the people, have

just as great a responsibility to keep comparisons and regionalism out of the picture.

When problems arise, and they will, let us face them objectively -- unemotionally. As long as we all are aiming for the same objective, we can and will find an amicable solution.

Brethren, we still count on you. We love, admire, and respect you all.

With deep love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Raymond C. Cole". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'R'.

Raymond C. Cole

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bryce G. Clark". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'B'.

Bryce G. Clark