

Church of God, The Eternal

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ANNOUNCEMENT LETTER April 1987

Dear Brethren:

Deception has always been an indigenous part of man's existence. However, education, as well as national conscience, has kept men from taking total advantage of one another and in a larger sense even nations from abusing other nations. Now it seems that mankind has sunk to the lowest possible level of self-aggrandizement. Few seem to be concerned for the welfare of others, all the hoopla surrounding the many organizations claiming humanitarian benevolence notwithstanding. On close scrutiny, foundations and special "service" organizations are self- or group-oriented at some level. They are not what they appear to be on the surface or as advertised.

What would our society be like if governments were used only by men who wanted to serve the governed? Today, nearly every, if not all, action taken is to limit, restrict, control, or otherwise tyrannize the people. And in so controlling the people, those governing seek personal advantage.

Human government was never intended to be a blessing from God. On the contrary, as a consequence of rebellion man was forced to rule man — as a curse. The obvious objective was to produce evidence that man cannot rule man in an acceptable manner.

This same deceptive characteristic of governing applies to every level of society. Is all business straightforward and honest? Is all education undertaken with the sole purpose of individual improvement, mental exercise, acquisition of fundamental information, and laboring skills? Is all religion open, honest, acceptable?

Even the questions are laughable. But a hidden tragedy lurks underneath the humor! Each one thinks he knows what is basic and right. At this point we are back to square one — the basic problem with all mankind. Until God reveals the Truth, man is lost in the maze of his own idolized concepts. Even those called of God have a life-and-death struggle confronting them. It is not easy for the called to face personal reality as it really exists and then maintain required faith regarding the miraculous revelation of a "*way of living*."

Succinctly stated: We are called to be "our brother's keeper." Whatever we do must be for the good of the other, primarily. The self derives its benefit from that orientation of service.

In this respect we are training to be tomorrow's leaders. Never again will God allow humanity the opportunity of deceptive living. Only those who can truly walk in the steps of

Jesus Christ, by learning the art of self-sacrifice and aggressive service to others, will be afforded the rights of eternal life in His soon-coming Kingdom.

The world lives by the concepts of deception, intrigue, and stealth! Do we yet live by any of these traits?

Articles

The enclosed article "Satan — Man's Adversary" is the next article in the Fundamentals of Belief series. There are yet several more articles to be sent before the series is complete.

Prayer Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

General Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Blessings of Brethren

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Feasts: Holy Days

Information has been sent previously regarding Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread. In all areas you may check with designated lead men regarding service times, appropriate details, and any other needed information.

If we can help here at the office in any way, please do not hesitate to write or call. We hope for the greatest and most meaningful Feast ever. God has been most gracious and good to us over the years.

Feast of Tabernacles

Preliminary details will be worked out during an early — April — ministerial "mini-conference." Appropriate details will be given where necessary.

Trips

Mr. George Leeman will be in the Knoxville, Tennessee, area for the last part of Unleavened Bread — April 17 to 21, 1987. Arrangements, based on schedules, may be made for these services.

Mr. Leeman will be in the New York/New Jersey/Pennsylvania area for the Sabbath of April 25, 1987. Arrangements for this service may be made. Also, Mr. Leeman will be in the same area for May 23, 1987. These arrangements, also, may be made.

Mr. Bryce Clark will be traveling to Nashville, Tennessee, and Amarillo, Texas, for Sabbath services on May 2 to 9. He will make arrangements with individuals involved. Please note that there has been a change in the schedule, that Mr. Clark will be in Amarillo, not Knoxville.

Mr. John Mitchell is scheduled to be in Dallas, Texas, for the Sabbath of May 23, 1987. Appropriate arrangements should be made.

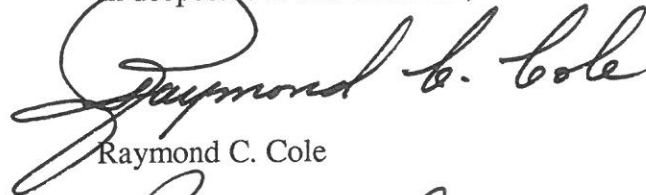
Office — Programs — Needs

Trumpets Cantata tapes are now available. Anyone who has not received a copy of this special tape may order a copy for his own tape library.

Conclusion

Time is of the essence this month. Many meetings and much study is required in the next few days. Though always rushing from one duty to another, we are always mindful of our brothers and sisters scattered around the world. Please receive all our love and affection once more. You are precious to God and us.

In deepest love and affection,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raymond C. Cole". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Raymond C. Cole

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bryce G. Clark". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Bryce G. Clark