

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter
June 1987

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Dear Brethren:

Warmest greetings from Eugene, once again. We trust and pray you are all well. Uncertainty regarding health and general well-being has been a dominant feature of the lives of nearly all, if not all, God's people in the past few months. Surely there must be some mysterious force and influence at work in the lives of all people—especially of those who exert effort to maintain faith in their initial call. If we do not manifest much courage and uncompromising conviction we will be overcome with despondency, despair, hopelessness, indifference, and resignation; or we will respond in anger and contempt. The die is cast. We must rise to the occasion, manifesting faith and hope. Such a response can be possible only if we remain close to God in prayer, study, and fasting.

Ancient Israel's greatest discouragement occurred just before the actual inheritance of their promised possession. Consistent trust for just a short time would have afforded them the "right" of inheritance without the ordeal of 40 years of wilderness journey.

Something tells me we are reasonably close to the threshold of our ultimate objective—the Kingdom of God. Will we falter only a brief period of time before the realization of our initial hope? At all cost, we must serenely set our affection upon those things which are spiritual and minimize the physical. As Christ said, some will attempt to gain much in the physical world and then frighteningly see the only real objective of life fade away. Indeed, there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Circumstances are not going to improve in the immediate future. The gathering clouds of blackness are only going to grow worse day by day. Only those who can see beyond that time of sorrow and wretchedness will realize and experience the joys of tomorrow—the time immediately beyond the day of darkness and trouble the world is presently experiencing.

Keep faith! Do not give up! A crown of righteousness can be yours if you manifest requisite character and purpose.

Current Events

A troubling thing is taking place in the political arena. Insidiously, the "Right"—politically and religiously, the ultraconservative—is positioning itself to assert much power and influence. At first consideration, this change of affairs might seem to be acceptable. What is not commonly considered, however, is this fact. Once entrenched in power, the political/religious "Right" will countenance no conception not approved by themselves.

Will this be the source of tribulation and persecution against the true servants of God? Remember, the true servants of God keep the Sabbath and Holy Days—sacred times hated and held in contempt by conservative "Christians."

More will not be given at this time. The above is sufficient to alert all to watch carefully and pray as never before. Only God will see us through.

Articles

Accompanying this issue of the *Announcement Letter* is the article "The Law of Clean and Unclean Meats—Applicable Today?" With the July issue of the *Announcement Letter* we will send the article entitled "Christ's Second Coming: Imminent, Personal, Visible."

Work continues on the major work on the subject of Israel and the Church.

New Interest

Please continue to pray for the doctrinal return of the people called of God who once knew the Truth. As we become acceptable lights and examples among ourselves, I am sure God will add such as should be brought back to the "faith once delivered."

Prayer Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Blessings of Brethren

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Feasts

June 8, Monday, is the Pentecost ordained of God—the day revealed to His commissioned servant of the last days. Arrangements should already be made in all local areas.

Mr. Clark will be here in Eugene. Both Portland and Eugene will meet together for the day. As always, both 10 A.M. and 2 P.M. services will be conducted.

Mr. George Leeman will be in Dallas, Texas, for Pentecost and the Sabbath preceding it.

Mr. John Mitchell will conduct the services at Rancho Cordova, California.

Myra and I will be in Lausanne, Switzerland, for the day of Pentecost. Morning and afternoon services as usual.

After the completion of Pentecost, it is but a short countdown to the Fall Feasts. And, of course, these will culminate in the grand time of the year—the Feast of Tabernacles—when all God's people come together to live the foretaste of the Kingdom of God.

Feast of Tabernacles

For those planning to attend the Feast at Townsend, Tennessee, please see to your own reservations. Due to the area and the lively interest in the Fall foliage, please attempt to complete reservations by July 1. Many owners of facilities want some kind of cut-off date. They will hold for us to that time. Also, Mr. Bill McCammon (Rt. 13, Box 234; Maryville, TN 37801; (615) 984-6585) will assist if you encounter problems.

After July 1, you could be on your own. We hope no one will be disappointed—so make those reservations early.

Trips

Pentecost was mentioned above. Mr. Clark's scheduled trip to Canada has been deleted. Due to Canadian requirements, Messrs. Tate, Marsh, and I travelled to Vancouver, B.C., for the annual Board Meeting of the Canadian entity. Having to be there, a Sabbath service was scheduled for the same time. No need, therefore, for Mr. Clark's trip.

Mr. John Mitchell will be in Eugene for the Sabbath of June 20.

On the Sabbaths of June 27 and July 25, 1987, Mr. Leeman will be in the New York/New Jersey/Pennsylvania area. Meeting in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania.

On the Sabbath of July 4, 1987, Mr. Leeman will be in Baltimore, Maryland.

Office: Programs, Needs

Our priority is service to you, the people called of God. For this reason, over the years, we have sent literature, tapes, etc., via first class mail.

Recently an opportunity was afforded us to send the tapes by a special third class mail. There are certain requirements and restrictions. The cost savings are appreciable. Yet cost savings are meaningless unless the service is acceptable to those we serve. So that you may understand and be able to assist us in this decision, let us give you a synopsis of the facts.

1. Per mailing, we must have a composite of at least 200 pieces of domestic mail. Since we are presently mailing only 165 (total) weekly, we would need to hold for two

weeks—mailing only twice a month. We would program the mailing so that you would always have the tapes in time for the Sabbath services or Holy Days.

2. We would be required to sort the mail by zip code. This would not be a major problem for us.
3. The post office will virtually certify delivery within 10 days.
4. Our cost will be a little less than half of what we are paying now.

As implied above, we will make no changes until we hear from you. Please evaluate the matter and then submit those feelings for evaluation here. Remember, service to you is always uppermost in our minds.

Many of you are concerned about the failure to receive a quick response to letters written to us containing questions, or other material needing response. I thoroughly understand your feelings. Since we are so limited in personnel, please be patient. All your letters are stacked up in my file. They will be answered eventually. In fact, I am taking a sizable number of them with me on the trip to Switzerland this year. I hope to answer most of them.

Again, many thanks for your continued patience. We do need your prayers. The work grows heavier each year.

Comments — Letters

Over the Memorial Day weekend we were deeply saddened by the accidental death of the daughter of Dr. Robert and Mrs. Phyllis Burke of Columbia, Maryland. Heather was only 19.

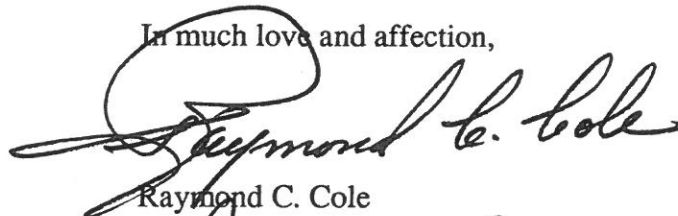
Being in the area at the time, Mr. George Leeman was able to help them through this crisis. He officiated at the funeral service.

We all sympathize with them at this time of great loss. We know God will intervene and fill up the great void through His comfort and love.

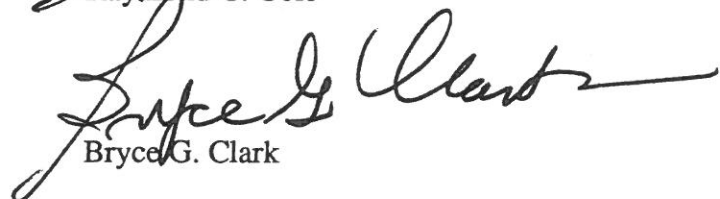
May they know, our prayers are with them.

Much love always. Let us continue to grow in faith and love for one another. Our prayers are always with you all.

In much love and affection,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark