

Church of God, The Eternal

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**Announcement Letter
December 1987**

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Dear Brethren:

Warm greetings to you all. We trust you are well and greatly blessed of God.

Finally, wet weather has come to most areas of the world. In our area it was very greatly needed and much appreciated. Unless we receive an unusual amount of rain or snow this winter, we will still feel the effects of past drought conditions.

We all know the days of adversity are coming; yet, the reality of even a limited measure of that adversity brings out our natural fears, doubts, and dislike. It is during these times of adjustment—weather, politics, social, or whatever—we should be learning to put real trust in God. Learning to accept the conditions as God wills them. We must remember God is bringing these conditions upon humanity for purpose, reason. It is in such conditions that the people of God can truly shine as lights—through a manifestation of faith, confidence, and self-discipline.

Let us be aware, also, that we, individually, may not stand immune to the basic causes of such trials and adversities. Only the very foolish will fail to take appropriate introspection. Self-deception is, perhaps, the greatest enemy of the called, as it most assuredly is to all those who do not recognize the basics of conversion—people of the world, the uncalled.

Current Events

Do not be fooled by the roller-coaster effect of the stock market and the weakness of the dollar. An incredible amount of "purposeful" manipulation is occurring. In such a period of generated instability, wisdom dictates the necessity of absolute conservatism. Keep solvent. Make every provision to sustain yourselves. Do not count on others. In other words, do not become indebted to others in any fashion. The wise will understand.

Before the present economic instability eases, if you are watching carefully, some very interesting events will occur. How do we know? The Bible clearly tells us certain conditions will prevail in the last days. The very nature of these conditions precludes the overnight occurrence of most of them. Therefore, those who are alert will see the formation of the roots of the foundational concepts before they become full-fledged realities.

The Bible admonishes, Watch! A word of caution, however. Do not attempt to give times or specifics to these events until God makes such information known. For, out of the mysterious many have fabricated prophetic explanations which are not of God.

Articles

Most of the preliminary work on the article about Israel is done. At present, Mr. Clark will begin the actual writing. Sometime within the next year, you should begin to see the results of several years of study and research.

New Interest

We continue to receive calls and letters from people who are manifesting an interest in the "revealed" truth. Due to the great confusion which prevails today, these people need your fervent, heartfelt prayers.

Prayer Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Blessings of Brethren

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Feast of Tabernacles

On a separate sheet of paper is a list of fundamental requirements for the selection of a future Feast site. These are the guidelines we have used over the years—the ones which became obvious to all of those who worked in Feast site development and operational planning for many years.

Most of the points are absolutes to give maximum advantage to the largest possible segment of the Church. Anything less will render the keeping of the Feast impossible for too large a number of members.

These are the guidelines Mr. Clark and I have used for the past 12-14 years. Anyone desiring to participate may do so. Submit information if all, or nearly all, the requirements can be met.

The selection of a Feast site is a ministerial function. It has been since the days of Moses—the time God gave to Israel the knowledge of these Holy Days. Even so, there is no problem in obtaining as much membership assistance as possible. From these suggestions and help sufficient information can be addressed to make wise decisions. Obviously, we cannot do whatever each individual proposes. To cater to one would necessitate running contrary to another. Catering to individual expectations—even our own—is not the basis for Feast site selection. The selection must be where God sets His name. How was this determined in the time of Moses? It was accomplished through God's appointed ministry of that time. God does not change!

Trips

When schedules are made up, the order of cities listed in the schedule does *not* indicate the order in which the Sabbath meetings will occur. The listing implies only a circuit. Many factors may govern the order of the meetings—such as airline connections, weather, other.

We have tried to list the circuits—in time order—at least one month in advance. If this is not sufficient time for lead men to make appropriate arrangements for services, please let us know. Maybe we will need to list time-sequenced circuits at least two months in advance. We need to hear from all lead men regarding this matter. We want to make your jobs as easy as possible.

Schedules for 1988 are just about completed. These will be sent to responsible individuals in all local areas. If there are any comments, please send them soon. Thank you.

Mr. and Mrs. John Mitchell will be in Vancouver, British Columbia (Canada), for Sabbath services on December 5, 1987. We know all will have a wonderful time.

Must hasten for this month. We are looking forward to all field contacts in the calendar year of 1988. To serve God and place confidence in Him is the only way of life. Such faith brings assurance, happiness, and real contentment. May God's Spirit of joy encourage us in this way of life.

Love and mercy to all.

With much concern and care,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark