

Church of God, The Eternal

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ANNOUNCEMENT LETTER January 1988

Dear Brethren:

Here we are into a new year, 1988, which promises some dramatic events to be sure. With the upcoming election and a new administration to be seated early next year, we can only guess what the future may be. You can count on one thing—the events of the last days will become more and more obvious and clear to see as time goes along. Do not expect too much change until after the elections. Politicians do not want to rock the boat during an election year, but after the first of next year be ready for anything to happen. And be prepared physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Current Events

We all saw the media hype regarding the visit by Gorbachev and the signing of the missile accord. Those who are astute in watching world events always look beyond the obvious. In other words, we have the given reason for an event but we need to ask ourselves: What is the *real* reason? *The Spotlight* carried an interesting article on the real reason for Gorbachev's visit. The Soviet Union is preparing the ground for long-term cooperation with the international banking community. Gorbachev wants to establish international convertibility for the ruble, which is worthless outside the Soviet Union and Communist-bloc countries. In addition, the Soviet Union wants to obtain \$15 billion in private loans in order to "expand and modernize" areas of Soviet production. It also wants to convert the USSR into "more of a market economy." What this means is that the USSR is moving toward a capitalistic economy. We all know there can be no one-world government unless there is full economic cooperation between the super-powers. This latest Russian move is a bold step in the direction of what Revelation 18 talks about.

Prayer Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Trips

Mr. Charles Lewis will be in the Spartanburg, South Carolina, area for the Sabbath of January 16. Arrangements should be made for this visit as soon as possible.

Mr. Raymond Cole will be in the Sacramento, California, area for the Sabbath of January 16. He will be in the Austin, Texas, area for the Sabbath of January 30. This should give ample time for all those who plan to attend to prepare. Mr. Cole will be in Hawaii for the Sabbaths of February 6 and 13.

Mr. Bryce Clark will be in Vancouver, B.C., for Sabbath services on February 20. Mr. John Mitchell will be in Dallas, Texas, for the Sabbath of January 30.

Office

Several have enquired regarding the Feast of Tabernacles tapes. Due to the work load on Mr. King, the tapes, although running somewhat late, will be out as soon as possible. So please be patient if you requested them as your name is on the list and they will be sent at the first opportunity.

Local Needs

Mr. Cole is conducting a series of Bible studies in the local area. The purpose of these studies is to make plain to any who have questions the various reasons for the many administrative decisions made by the ministry in recent years. By the time these studies have been completed, though they may continue as an ongoing thing for some time, all questions will have been answered fully and completely. It is the intention and purpose of these studies to insure that harmony and peace will prevail among God's people. One of the requirements of the ministry is to maintain peace among the brotherhood, and this peace will be assured by means of these meetings.

Comments

In the last days, the called of God have been warned of a particularly virulent form of cancer which would exist in the church. That cancer is of the mind. The creation of doubt, suspicion, mistrust, uneasiness, and uncertainty.

Here is what we are told:

1. II Pet. 2:13-14, 18. ". . . Sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you; . . . beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children. . . . They allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that are clean escaped from them who live in error."
2. Titus 2:2-3. "That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as

becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things."

3. II Tim. 3:1-8. ". . . In the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves,. . . Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away [do not listen to or countenance their rebellion]. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, lead away with divers lusts. . . . These also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith."
4. I Tim. 1:5-7. ". . . faith unfeigned. From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm."
5. Ex. 23:1. "Thou shalt not raise a false report. . . ."

Many other texts could be cited. Sufficient is given above to give a general idea of the problem.

Most of the texts apply specifically to these last days. The others are a part of the eternal Law—Way—of God. They apply as do the specific texts for our day.

Within the substance of the *Announcement Letter*, I want to expressly cover—explain—a few items which have been raised—as false, damaging reports. Only one at a time, however.

For this time, since I mentioned the matter on a Sabbath to the Eugene congregation, I have elected to cover the matter of church investments.

Indeed, based on a basic principle of Christ, the church did have investments. Overall, we have made a reasonable return.

After years of study regarding a Swiss investment opportunity, we did invest a substantial sum of money with that agency. From all appearances it was doing well. Then one day we received notification the Swiss government had intervened in the affairs of the investment firm. At first we were led to believe the problem was malfeasance on the part of the "head" individual in the concern. And, the charge could be true, yet. However, we do have subsequent information which makes me wonder if the investment firm did not encounter the wrath of the "powers-that-be." This, too, is possible. We have no idea of what disposition may yet be made of the matter.

Such a loss is a shock—a jolt—at any time. Maybe you would like to enquire of those who had sizable amounts involved in major investment firms here in the United States. Further, do not for one minute think your money is safe in a bank! Remember Penn State of Oklahoma City? Continental Illinois in Chicago? A host of banks in the state of Tennessee? Savings and loan institutions in the states of Ohio and Maryland? And what about banks in your own areas? Many have gone bankrupt or have been bought up by other, larger banks. In some cases, those who had money in these banks received only a percentage of their capital at the time of the transfer. Further, consider the stock market in the past few months. Or, the bond market just a few months ago.

Finally, none of you have escaped the ravages of "true" inflation. Your dollar is worth a lot less now than it was just one year ago.

We are not going to take any of this world's money into the kingdom with us. It is a medium of exchange to accomplish whatever service God requires.

We have tried with all our understanding and the necessary guidance of God to do what He wills. No one was hurt any more than we were by the loss. However, the redeeming factor is this: Our actual gains in our total investments were slightly more than the total amount lost. Therefore, no tithes or offerings were lost. For that we are most grateful.

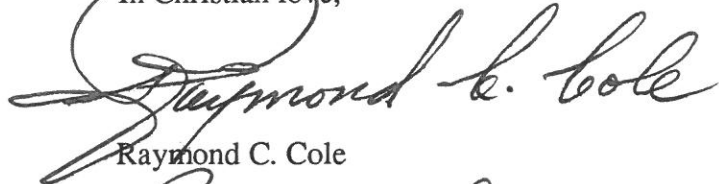
Why this report? Unfortunately, some—very few—have elected to believe we were guilty of malfeasance and a deliberate, subsequent screen to hide the situation. Nothing is further from the truth. The whole matter was reported to the Board—at the time. Further, there is yet no definitive answer regarding the legal outcome of the investment. The case is not closed. We do not know what disposition of the matter may yet occur. It is in the hands of God. God is merciful. He may yet allow us to recoup some of the loss. Such matters grind along very slowly. Even so, we are now treating the matter as a loss.

Lessons have been learned. We are grateful for them. But absolutely no evil intent ever existed.

Considering what God said of the last days—mentioned earlier—I am persuaded such behavioral patterns, more strongly than ever, give confirmation to our call and responsibility. God said it would happen to His people by those who coexist with us. Of course, what is most troubling is the evident fact some do not know what real trust and confidence are. They would rather live by suspicion and doubt. We are thankful we do not live by those concepts. We tried not to enter such devastating practices while still in Worldwide and we are not planning to take up those ways now.

Brethren, if there are other questions, please address them to us. We can tell you the facts. Others are merely passing on gossip, presumption, false reports. Can you rely on such information for actualities—facts and figures?

In Christian love,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark