

# Church of God, The Eternal

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## Announcement Letter August 1992

Dear Brethren,

Fervent preparations are underway for observing the Feast of Tabernacles, by most at least. As in all things which touch our lives, good and successful planning for the observance of the Feast will enrich the experience. It, too, spares us the troubling and embarrassing glitches which beset all too frequently those who fail to practice both vision and anticipation.

Though there are two letters to be issued before the Feast, we wanted to remind you that now is a good time to begin that long-range planning. We pray for and hope to have a most wonderful Feast.

### **Spiritual Principle: What Is a Holy Convocation?**

God is man's Creator. He gave him life and all that he experiences here on earth. Regarding time, He gave man six out of the seven days of the week to do his work and whatever pleases him. He, however, reserved that seventh day for Himself. He controls it and has determined what all men should do on it. Of the seven days of the week only the seventh is specifically named. It is called the Sabbath (compare Gen. 2:1-3 and Ex. 16:26).

To the weekly Sabbath God added specific annual Sabbaths (Ex. 12:2 and Lev. 23). These Sabbaths are also treated in the same basic way as the weekly Sabbath. They are all holy to God—times set apart for specific reasons.

The Sabbath and all the annual Sabbaths are called holy convocations (Lev. 23, Num. 28; 29). They are feasts of the Lord and are to be so proclaimed by the servants of God.

What is meant by the term convocation? What duties and/or responsibilities are involved in observing these commanded convocations of God?

No manner of work is to be done on them (Ex. 12:16). They are times of physical and mental rest from the pressures of the mundane (Lev. 23:32, Gen. 2:1–3). The term Sabbaths (Lev. 23:39) infers times of rest; the very word Sabbath means rest. Also, they are times of solemn assembly (Lev. 23:36).

What is a convocation?

The Hebrew word is *Mikrah*. One of the best definitions of the word is found in the work, *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* pages 810–811, Vol. II. Excerpts given below will clearly indicate the meaning: "This noun denoting the result of *Qara'* is used, first, for convocations exclusively cultic [church], and secondly, of the result of reading aloud (Neh 8:8). One should compare its synonym *Mo'ed*, an appointed time therefore also an appointed gathering. *Miqra'* designates the weekly Sabbaths . . . its most usual meaning is reserved for the seven special convocation sabbaths . . . Such days (and the weekly Sabbath as well) included a formal summoning of people to worship by the blast of trumpets (Num 10:2, 10 . . .). Physical presence was mandatory . . . the godly were to focus their time and effort on worship. . ."

Convocations are legal summons by the Sovereign God. Acceptance of the sovereignty of God is manifested in absolute and faithful obedience to that call. In a very unique sense the Hebrew root of the word for convocation related to Naming—calling on the Name of God. Only those properly convoking before God are in reality calling upon the Name of God. It is a manifestation of the acceptance of the Sovereignty of God.

Based on Biblical principles, there appear to be only three reasons which justify anyone called of God not attending a mandatory convocation. They are: 1. A long journey which would take us away from an appointed place of worship. Such a journey would involve many days and thereby include at least one Sabbath. 2. Living in an area where there is no specific appointed place of worship. We must remember that every member of Israel did not have the right to appoint places of meeting for himself. 3. Illness of such a nature to proscribe any public contact or sufficiently severe to jeopardize health.

Meeting before God at appointed times is mandatory. Any convocation is a court appointment—the court of heaven. Remember, the sovereignty of God is manifested in appearance before Him at those specific times determined and commanded by Him. Do we fear our God? We should give Him greater reverence than we do the courts and judges of the land.

### **New Interest**

There has been a spate of new letters recently from prospective members around the world. We are encouraged by this response and ask your prayers for these new people, that they may eventually bear fruit.

### **Prayer Requests**

[Omitted for confidentiality]

### **General Requests**

[Omitted for confidentiality]

### **Blessings of Brethren**

[Omitted for confidentiality]

### **Deaths**

We have received word recently that Mrs. Grace Lecocq, who had lived many years in the Pennsylvania area, died in June. She lived in North Carolina with her son and was quite elderly.

## Feast of Tabernacles

Mr. Bill McCammon informs us that it is necessary to make reservations at Townsend, Tennessee, for the Feast of Tabernacles as soon as possible. This is because our negotiated prices are good until the first of September only. After that all accommodations will be charged the going rate, which is more expensive. Also, those who have reserved rooms/houses need to verify the reservation and cost as soon as possible. In effecting this contact, if major problems surface, please call Mr. McCammon about the situation so that he can handle the problem in the interest of the church.

We have obtained a group rate at the Shiloh Inn in Newport for the Feast of Tabernacles. You may contact the Shiloh Inn by calling 1-800-334-1051. Be sure to indicate that you want the rate for the Church of God, The Eternal room block and designate a non-smoking room. Also, if you plan to make a reservation at the Shiloh Inn please notify us here at the office by September 1. The Shiloh Inn is one of the better motels in Newport.

## Trips

August 15	Raymond Cole	Vancouver, BC
August 22	Raymond Cole	Youngstown
August 29	Raymond Cole	Amarillo
September 19	Raymond Cole	Sacramento
September 26, 28	Raymond Cole	Austin

## Office

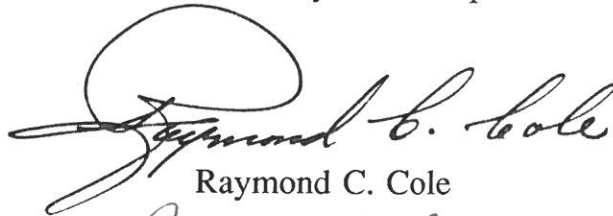
Some of the song books presently in use are not complete and contain only 56 hymns. We will make these hymnals complete if you will let us know how many of these deficient hymnals you have in your possession. We are presently planning a new hymnal to be made available next spring, so the present hymnal with these additions should suffice until then.

**Tape Schedule**

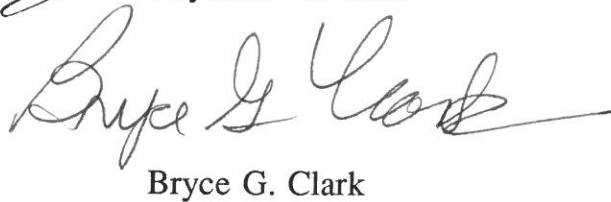
Tape Series	Mailed	For	Title/tape #
WSE-BC 138-16	6/24	8/1	Paul's Epistles #16
CL 2-147*	6/24	8/8	Humility #10
WSE-BC 138-17	7/8	8/15	Paul's Epistles #17
CL 2-148*	7/8	8/22	Humility #11
WSE-BC 138-18	7/22	8/29	Paul's Epistles #18
CL 2-149*	7/22	9/5	Humility #12
WSE-BC 138-19	8/5	9/12	Paul's Epistles #19
CL 2-150*	8/5	9/19	Humility #13
WSE-BC 138-20	8/19	9/26	Paul's Epistles #20

\*Principles of Christian Living series currently being given at Eugene Sabbath Services.

As always with deepest love and affection,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark