

# Church of God, The Eternal

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## Announcement Letter February 1993

Dear Brethren,

The heyday is over already. No president or other man of power and influence is going to change the course of events destined to occur in these last days. What we are really seeing is the national destabilization necessary to create required conditions out of which many very sobering events must yet materialize. Hold onto your hats. The American and international public is in for a very rough and troubling four-year ride. The face of the world will never be the same again.

### **Spiritual Principle: Child Abuse**

Child abuse—the stuff for political campaigns. Whole "science" departments have been generated around varied components of this general concept. Much thought and study have been given to related issues. With all this endeavor and expense, have governments, organizations, and men in general come any closer to an understanding of the causes of child abuse, an understanding of the real problems, and an understanding of solutions? A careful observation of the increase of incidences, severity of cases, and the necessity of a consistently higher budget as well as a broadening of endeavors tells us no progress is being made. Why? Only the real truth of what is right in the sight of man's Creator—God, and an honest application of these unalterable principles, along with a careful safeguarding of responsibilities as determined by God, will result in a change and thereby a solution to the problem.

Uneducated, crass, and rebellious men refuse to go to the source of knowledge by which their problems could be resolved. If men do not recognize the miraculous beginning of life and refuse to accept the instruction manual which goes with the "product" how can they ever hope to properly care for the gift given to them?

### **Children Are a Gift from God**

As Creator of man and woman God ordained the institution of marriage (Gen. 2:18–25). Alternative lifestyles are not acceptable in the sight of God. Neither is the

breaking up of the home (Matt. 5:32; 19:6). Why? Looking at it purely from the physical perspective, children will come from marriage ordained of God (Gen. 3:16). Children have a right to both fathers and mothers. Churches, governments, and social institutions allowing any breakup of marriage are in violation of absolutes decreed by God (Matt. 19:6, 9). From a *husband* and *wife* relationship—not just a man and woman relationship—come the blessings of God, called heritages of the Lord (Psa. 127:3).

It does not take a great I.Q. to realize immediately that any body, organization, or man which allows any breakup of the support system of children as created by God is guilty and worthy of severe punishment. Who, then, is responsible for and worthy of the severest penalty for the chaotic mess we call society today? First and foremost are the churches. Secondly, the governments and judges—those who permit and authorize such dissolution of marriages. And thirdly, the people themselves because they love to have the structure of society the way it is.

By design God created the structure of the home for maximum benefit to all concerned. By God's definition, the husband is the provider. The wife is to be both a mother and homemaker. The mother is the basic "molder" of the character of the children. In accord with the success or failures of those mothers so will society in general manifest either character and purpose or a foundationless existence.

Unfortunately, the very powers and bodies allowing the breakup of homes are themselves responsible for the messes which they have created. Yet they continue to look for "scapegoats" on whom they can hinge the blame. Billions of dollars are spent in a frantic effort to submerge their own guilt and to falsely accuse others.

So-called child abuse takes many and varied directions. One avenue relates to health. Just who is responsible for the unhealthful condition of our children? Sin requires an atrocious price (Ex. 20:5; 34:7, Lev. 26:22, Deut. 5:9; 28:54; 32:20, Job 21:19–32). The problem stems from and affects all who refuse to subscribe to and pursue the ways of God. Yet, interestingly, governments and powers of authority would force our children to subscribe to the very ways which have brought all the ills of this world which we presently experience. Again, we ask, who is abusing our children?

Another area of so-called child abuses—child care centers. Who should be caring for our children in the first place? The parents are responsible before God (Deut. 4:10; 31:12–13, Prov. 22:6; 23:13–14). Our entire educational system is anti-God. Concepts taught and practiced have come from the hearts and minds of rebellious philosophers.

Are we really interested in the welfare of our homes and children? If so, take a good and careful look at how we may have a rich, purposeful, and safe society (Deut. 5:29; 6:7, 8; 11:18–21; 12:25–28, Psa. 78:1–8; 103:17–19).

To be successful in the discharge of any responsibility requires a good understanding of basics. In the case of training and developing children, parents, with emphasis upon mothers, must understand the nature of their children. As Creator, God reveals that nature and what to do about it (Pro. 20:11; 22:15; 29:15, Eccl. 11:10).

In the final analysis how can we understand the degenerate society and rebellious spirit which we see manifested today? (Pro. 15:9–11)

Where does the fault lie? In general it stems from mankind. Specifically, the government, agencies, and judges are absolutely guilty before God. Is it unreasonable to expect the powers-that-be to begin looking for the true causes and appropriate solutions? The day is coming when those ways will prevail.

### **General Requests**

[Omitted for confidentiality]

### **Deaths**

We were saddened by the sudden death of Mr. Leon Shepler of Portland on January 11, 1993. He died as a result of a heart attack at the age of 61. Our prayers and sympathy go the Shepler family for this loss. He will be missed by all the brethren.

### **Trips**

February 6	B.G. Clark	Knoxville
February 13	B.G. Clark	Pittsburgh
February 20	R.C. Cole	Central California
March 20	R.C. Cole	Canada
March 27	R.C. Cole	Baltimore

### **Feasts: Holy Days**

Though hinted at in earlier writings, the ministry wants to reemphasize the need to locally collect the Holy Day offering in those areas where meetings are approved. In this

way we are more fully complying to the command of God, to bring our offering before Him on those specific days. The leader in each approved area should take care of this responsibility.

### Feast of Tabernacles

At Feast time last October, there was some question about the availability of the hall we use in Newport. All is now resolved. You may make your reservations. The earlier the better.

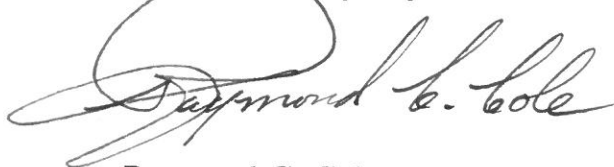
### Tape Schedule

Tape Series	Mailed	For	Title/tape #
WSP-BC 13-2	12/16	02/06	Miracles of Christ #2
WSE-RC 56-6	12/16	02/13	What's in it for the Youth? #6
WSE-BC 138-27	12/30	02/20	Paul's Epistles #27
WSE-RC 56-7	12/30	02/27	What's in it for the Youth? #7
WSE-BC 138-28	01/13	03/06	Paul's Epistles #28
WSE-RC 56-8	01/13	03/13	What's in it for the Youth? #8
WSE-BC 138-29	01/27	03/20	Paul's Epistles #29
WSE-RC 56-9	01/27	03/27	What's in it for the Youth? #9

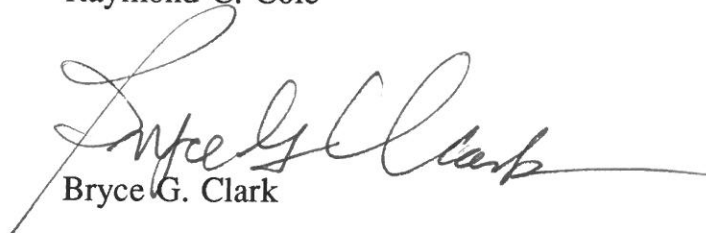
### Comments

We do not have too much specific information regarding the health of those for whom we fasted and prayed on January 17. As we receive more detailed information we will keep you informed.

Much love always—your servants in Christ,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark