

Church of God, The Eternal

P. O. Box 775
Eugene, Oregon 97440

Raymond C. Cole
Director
Bryce G. Clark
Asst. Director

Offices in:
Canada
Philippines
Switzerland

Announcement Letter March 1994

Dear Brethren,

Warm greetings to you all. God's glorious Holyday season is again upon us. What a privilege to know, understand, and be accorded the right to keep these manifestations of God's love. They are a priceless gift from God. Will we manifest the faithfulness and conviction requisite for endurance in faith to the end?

Spiritual Principle: Should we structure diets, take supplements, practice holistic concepts, and/or seek advice from medical and alternative practitioners?

In the past two issues of the *Announcement Letter* the subjects of "calling for the elders" and "what God created was good and marvelous" were addressed. In this issue we would like to review the concepts and principles of the subject above. So much could be written. However, this section of the *Announcement Letter* is not the place to write a lengthy article. If that need arises in the future, an article will be written. For this time a general resumé of the material will be addressed.

First, it is imperative to recognize that this world belongs to Satan and his cohorts—demons. There is no part of it that belongs to God or forms a part of the divinely revealed way of life. No method or part of the medical or alternative system is preeminently superior to any other part of it. That is not to say, that some modes of health help are not vastly superior to others which are practiced. Just from a practical perspective true, genuine, and legitimate endeavors exist in most human pursuits. Though uncalled there are people who live honestly and with a heartfelt desire to serve and help fellow human beings. Human nature is not all bad, even though its normal natural inclination is downward. This knowledge, however, does not alter the responsibilities incumbent upon the called, those to whom special, divinely revealed, knowledge has been given.

For the converted God says He is their Healer. One of His names means, "God our Healer." In a significant manner Christ manifested that responsibility when dwelling on this

earth. He "bore the sicknesses" and sufferings of human beings. He healed all that came to Him. By using the power of the office which He held, He evoked the wrath and contempt of many. Some for religious reasons; others, no doubt for purely physical reasons. Yet, He came to accomplish many purposes. One was the fulfillment of prophecy which mandated His bearing the sicknesses of the human race (Isa. 53:4-5). Why? Because illness stems from the inability of human beings to live a perfect life. As natural fleshly beings they are subject to the general degeneration of flesh. As carnal beings they do not possess the ability to live the way of life which would have given them preeminent health. Both sin and degeneration are root causes of illnesses and other problems experienced by man. Christ died to pay the price for both weaknesses. In the one case the blood of Christ had to be spilled so that we could have forgiveness of sin—living the carnal physical ways which come naturally and are the cause of many illnesses. On the other hand, there is a natural degeneration which is foreordained of God. Man will not live forever in the flesh. He is appointed to die. Sickness which results from sin can be forgiven. Healing is the forgiveness of those sins. All the dietary changes in the world will not change the intent and purpose of God. We will be healed by the stripes of Christ—by His broken body. What is required is not a change of diet; on the contrary, it requires an orientation of mind. Faith is the sole requirement. This does not imply that the individual who comes to God for healing may continue in the ways of sin which precipitated the need for healing in the first place. There must be a change.

Why Eat?

Eating is daily regeneration. The body and mind are sustained by the food which is ingested. The quality of body and mind will be determined by the food which we eat. At the time of creation, God made premier food for the man whom He had created. When He surveyed His creation, He was very pleased with the quality of that which He had created. It was good. That is, it was perfect for the fulfillment of that purpose for which it was created. It is man who through the years has decided he could do a better job of designing and fabricating those items deemed palatable for human ingestion. The results have been devastating. Despite the horrendous price which is being paid, daily, most human beings have not yet recognized the causes for those things which they are experiencing. The consequences of man's rebellious orientation are far reaching. Man has polluted his entire environment. The air must be healed at the return of Christ. The land must be healed, also. Further, the water is virtually beyond redemption. With such a state of affairs, it is impossible to find optimum food. According to many research reports circulated today, the inherent value of most food substances—vegetables, fruits, etc.—is far less than one-half of its designed and God-intended potency. In fact, some reports have indicated that value is below twenty-five percent. It is absolutely impossible to eat sufficient of such foods to adequately satisfy the biologic needs of the human system. This fact, along with the natural inclination to sin, forms the cause of the many diseases and illnesses experienced today.

Diseases and illnesses are symptomatic. They indicate nutritional deficiencies—deficiencies which would not exist if we all were ingesting the food God created and in the qualitative form in which He created it. (For the sake of the limited scope of this instruction, let us forget the curses imposed by God on man for rebellion). In essence, what is implied is this: Eat the food God created and in the manner in which He created it. Even then, in all probability, some supplementation will be required. If maximum potency food is not available, it does seem logical to provide for oneself those missing ingredients. When seeking supplementation, one should remember that such a course of action is not preempting God and His duty of healing. It is merely supplying those things which we should secure routinely from the food which we consume. If one takes vitamins, minerals, and other supplements for the purpose of eliminating specific diseases, which are the result of disobedience to God's health laws, the best one can say is that such an action is defiance against God. The worst is probably that such an orientation would be classified as idolatry. Supplementation for the purpose of adding that which rebellious man has destroyed, and generally is not available in food today, cannot be deemed a sin. All of our Biblical advice is predicated on attempts to eliminate nutritional deficiencies—not addressing specific diseases or illnesses. Specific diseases and illnesses are frequently indicative of specific deficiencies. Remember, we are what we eat. This is the bottom line in what is commonly termed the "whole health approach."

Eat the food God created. And eat it in the manner in which He created it. As much as possible avoid all fabricated, processed, and altered food items.

Current Events: Persecution

Monumental movements are underway in these last days of this era of time. Those activities are in some distinct way foundational to the terrible persecution destined to occur. In that context, we must understand why. Who will these adversities affect? For this time, we would like to lay out a basic outline of persecution. From this outline many of the problems can be ascertained and better understood.

The History of Persecution

What is the basis of such volatile conflict? This world belongs to Satan—a spirit-being who is completely opposed to anything proceeding from God (Luke 4:5–6, II Cor 4:4). As a deceiver he has led mankind to believe that he is god. Only by revelation can one know who the Eternal God is (Matt. 11:25–27). Satan knows this fact even if the majority of human beings reject the concept. Based on his invisibility and the natural human orientation of man most are led to believe and trust nothing that they cannot see, touch, and hear.

At the appointed time, though determined from the foundation of the world, God made specific choice by calling Abraham and establishing a people destined to have more than ordinary purpose. Though Israel has behaved badly, they were chosen to fulfill many purposes determined by God. This choice has resulted in a long history of difficulty. What happened physically has been recorded not only as a witness against their failures, but forms the basic example of what to expect spiritually. Add to the above two concepts as bases for persecution the reality of the nature of man. That nature which is categorically and emphatically against God and all that He upholds (Gen. 4:7). Within these three broad conditions or circumstances is found all basis for conflict.

The Strength of Rebellion

Though natural man is opposed to God, the force of contempt and hatefulness toward those called is blunted. Tragically, the ultimate manifestation of rebellion comes from those called and who once comprehended the truths of God. In most devious and hateful ways those who once knew the truth seem committed to destroying, in some manner, that which once guided their lives. Even the people who continue to be faithful to the truths revealed will not avoid the edge of their venom (Rom. 1:21-32, I Tim. 6:3-5, II Tim. 2:25-3:13). Daniel wrote: ". . . therefore he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant . . . And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries . . ." (Dan. 11:30, 32). Obviously there is going to be some corrupt arrangement between the evil political power surfacing in these last days and the very people who turned from the truth. They will be pivotal in identifying and informing. Christ referred to this situation. Recorded in the book of John are these frightening words. "These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended. They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me" (John 16:1-3). Literally spoken with respect to that which the apostles must endure. A part of God's Word which has its application at all times based upon intents and purposes of God.

Christ came unto His own and they received Him not (John 1:11). Not knowing Him, He became the objective of all their contempt and hate. Yet, physically, these were the children of the very people chosen in Egypt and miraculously led out by powerful signs and wonders. When human beings turn from the truth, it seems that their energies must be powerfully employed against that which they once believed and practiced.

The above sets the environment of volatile circumstances yet to occur in these closing last days. That persecution will know no bounds. It will be experienced in every area of man's endeavor. Therefore, we must expect to see the manifestations of persecution in religion, government, courts, education, social relationships, as well as all other areas. But,

remember, that persecution will not be exclusively limited to those chosen of God only. As all history reveals, anyone who upholds principles which stem from God and are manifestations of honesty and integrity will be the recipients of Satanic contempt. He is aware of God's purpose for the creation of man. His ultimate intent is to destroy all mankind.

We have some very sobering manifestations of that contempt developing now. In time we shall attempt to keep you abreast of those happenings.

Prayer Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Blessings of Brethren

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Births

Mr-s. David Carter: The Carters have just adopted a baby boy. He was born February 23, weighing in at 8 pounds (20 inches long). His name is Daniel Robert Thomas Carter. The happy parents wish to thank the brethren for their prayers and support.

Deaths

Mr. Ted Cassidy: Mr. Cassidy died on February 22 after a long illness. Our condolences are extended to his family. Mr. Cassidy was 60 years of age.

Mr. John Kosior: Mr. Kosior was the father of Mrs. Rita Barnes. She had requested prayer for his health condition earlier. Mr. Kosior died on January 24. He was 79. Mr. and Mrs. Barnes send their thanks to all those who have been praying for Mr. Kosior. Our sympathies are extended to the Barnes during this time of grief.

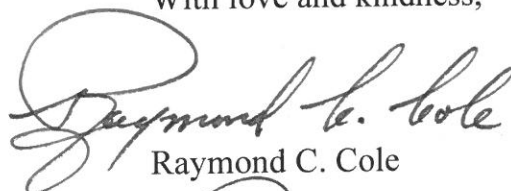
Feasts: Holydays

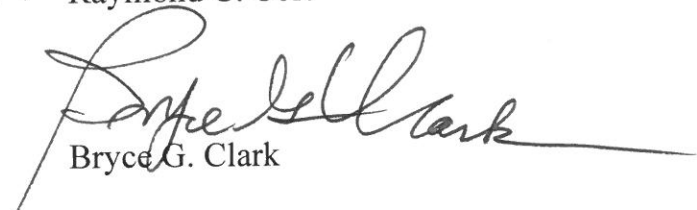
The Passover will be held at 7:30 P.M., or as close to that time as possible, on Friday evening, March 25. Although non-baptized members are welcome to attend, the bread and wine should be taken by baptized members only. The Night to be Much Observed will be Saturday evening, March 26 and the first high day of the Days of Unleavened Bread will be on Sunday, March 27. Food preparation for the Night to be Much Observed and the first high Sabbath day should be taken care of before Friday evening, March 25, so that there will be a minimum amount of effort required to properly observe the Night to be Much Observed and the first high Sabbath day of the Days of Unleavened Bread.

Tape Schedule

Tape Series	Mailed	For	Title/tape #
WSE-RC 59-4	12/29	03/05	Despair or Glory, Which? #4
WSE-BC 138-51	01/12	03/12	Paul's Epistles #51
WSE-RC 59-5	01/12	03/19	Despair or Glory, Which? #5
Passover	03/09	03/25	
WSE-BC 138-52	01/26	03/26	Paul's Epistles #52
NTBO	03/09	03/26	
Days of UB			A.M. & P.M.
First Day	03/16	03/27	(two tapes)
WSE-RC 59-6	01/26	04/02	Despair or Glory, Which? #6
WSE-BC 138-53	02/09	04/09	Paul's Epistles #53
WSE-RC 59-7	02/09	04/16	Despair or Glory, Which? #7
WSE-BC 138-54	02/23	04/23	Paul's Epistles #54
WSE-RC 59-8	02/23	04/30	Despair or Glory, Which? #8

With love and kindness,


Raymond C. Cole


Bryce G. Clark