

# Church of God, The Eternal

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## Announcement Letter December 1996

Dear Brethren:

We have now fallen into the dead of winter. All of God's holydays occur either in the spring—the time life is again regenerated—or the fall—the time of harvest. Interestingly, the only real marker of the seasons is the Feast of Pentecost. Without correct adjustment, periodically, Pentecost can, and will, fall out of season. It occurs right at the end of spring. Without appropriate adjustment, it would progress forward into summer. Its very existence depicts the necessity of observation and consistency. What a picture of purpose for us. We must be consistent in that which was given to us. And at the same time we must grow in development and maturity so that we can be harvested at the time of Christ's return.

### **Spiritual Principle: Children and Their Education**

Last month we were made aware of the source of children—a creation of God. From them came nations—nations which rebelled against God and His purpose. Twice in human history catastrophic events—the flood and the tower of Babel—resulted from wrong education and training of children.

The same powers, unseen, are at work in society today, endeavoring to subdue the human race and perpetuate their purpose—by deceiving the children and thereby bringing about self-destruction. What are the manifestations of that evil, hateful plan? We must keep that objective in mind, at the same time we must fill in certain fundamental details before we can comprehensively understand what is happening. Let us add specific detail to that which was given last month.

In a general sense, there are two broad classifications of human beings living on earth. The masses who are deceived by Satan—induced to believe concepts that are antagonistic to those eternal principles, truths, upheld by God. And, those called out of that mass of humanity to know, believe, and live those eternal truths. Children are integral to both endeavors. Their education is of paramount importance. Because, by their training and

instruction, in a spiritual sense, they become either the children of Satan or the children of God.

Of those called to understand we read: ". . . he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad" (John 11:52). "Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption unto the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Rom. 8:21). "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:26).

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty" (II Cor. 6:17–18). "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God" (Matt. 5:9). "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not" (I John 3:1). "Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God [now born of the Spirit], being the children of the resurrection" (Luke 20:36). And finally, ". . . it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God" (Rom. 9:26).

These are called the children of light. "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light" (Eph. 5:8). ". . . the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light" (Luke 16:8). "While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. . ." (John 12:36). "Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness" (I Thes. 5:5). Light is the indicator of the kind of education which they received. They were the recipients of the truth—the way of life delivered by God. Education received regardless of the forces of darkness which prevailed in the world.

And of the children of this present world we read: ". . . for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light" (Luke 16:8). "Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous" (I John 3:12). "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it" (John 8:44). "The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one" (Matt. 13:38). ". . . O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?" (Acts 13:10). "And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges" (Matt. 12:26–27).

These are called the children of darkness: We read ". . . [T]hem that sit in darkness. . ." (Luke 1:79). ". . . [T]he light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not" (John 1:5). "And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness" (Rom. 2:19). "The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light" (Rom. 13:12). "For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light. . ." (Eph. 5:8). "Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness" (I Thes. 5:5).

From that natural condition—by birth—of darkness, God, in due time, calls the chosen to light. At that time of call, regardless of age, we become children again, His children. We read: "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God. . ." (Acts 26:18). "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son. . ." (Col. 1:13). ". . . a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" (I Pet. 2:9).

We are called to liberty—freedom from the powers of this world who deem it necessary to bring into bondage every human being. Being called to this grand hope does not necessarily mean that the struggle is over. To the Ephesians Paul wrote: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12). It is this "wrestle" we must come to understand. What is occurring in this world which necessitates such a confrontation day by day? That which is transpiring at the very highest levels of government?

If we are wrestling against such exalted powers how can we hope to master, overcome? To the Galatians Paul wrote: "Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father" (Gal. 1:4). Also, note II Corinthians 4:6, "For God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

What result can we expect? To "overcome the wicked one" (I John 2:13). That is, by the help of Jesus Christ we can gain the victory over all elements of Babylonianism which prevail today.

Children must be taught. That duty primarily belongs to parents. God holds them accountable for the substance of that which is taught to their children as well as the actual teaching itself. Then God holds children accountable for listening to and honoring their parents in faithful obedience (Eph. 6:1).

How does Satan hope to perpetuate his kingdom? He must not only gain the minds of a given generation of children, but at the same time, he must establish a system by which to ensure future generations are taught those same diabolical ways. Are there any manifestations of his attempt to gain the minds of children and to perpetuate his kingdom? Indeed! For a brief insight of what is happening, we must wait until next time.

God will be victorious. But, we must be mindful that a very dark period of time lies just ahead of us. In his anger and vengeance, Satan will pull out all stops and endeavor with all his might to disrupt the plan and purpose of God. Are we ready for such an event?

### **Prayer Requests**

[Omitted for confidentiality]

### **Deaths**

Mr. Daniel Lozano of Modesto, California was severely injured in an auto accident on November 11 and died on November 19. Our sincere condolences are extended to his family. He was the brother of Mrs. Rachel Quenzer and was 56 years old.

### **Office**

The cutoff date for 1996 tithes will be January 6, 1997. Please keep this in mind for those contributions you wish to have included in your 1996 statement. Remember, they must be dated 1996.

### **Trip Schedule**

December 14, 21	Philippines	R.C.C.
January 11, 18, 25	Hawaii	R.C.C.

## Tape Schedule

<u>Tape Series</u>	<u>Mailed</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Title/tape #</u>
WSE-RC 59-51	10/16	<b>12/07</b>	Despair or Glory, Which? #51
WSE-BC 147-31	10/16	<b>12/14</b>	Mighty Acts & Miracles of God #31
WSE-RC 59-52	10/30	<b>12/21</b>	Despair or Glory, Which? #52
WSE-BC 149-12	10/30	<b>12/28</b>	The Teachings of Christ #12
WSE-RC 59-53	11/13	<b>01/04</b>	Despair or Glory, Which? #53
WSE-BC 147-32	11/13	<b>01/11</b>	Mighty Acts & Miracles of God #32
WSE-RC 59-54	11/27	<b>01/18</b>	Despair or Glory, Which? #54
WSE-BC 149-13	11/27	<b>01/25</b>	The Teachings of Christ #13

In Christ's service,



Raymond C. Cole

Bryce G. Clark