

# Church of God, The Eternal

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## Announcement Letter March 1997

Dear Brethren:

Last month I promised to keep you informed about my eye condition. Here is that update. As any of you who really know me well are aware, I have virtually no confidence in any aspect of the skills or capabilities of the medical profession. That lack of confidence, distrust, extends beyond what is called allopathic practice to almost all, if not all, alternative systems, too. History of medicine, around the world, reveals the deep involvement of the occult (witchcraft, spiritism, the paranormal, etc.) in the field of most alternative practices. Blind acceptance of *any* system would be tantamount to idolatry. God is the Healer of those who have come to know Him. That does not mean, however, that man does not have a God-given duty—rather, obligation—to take care of and properly maintain the life which He gave us. The fact we eat to maintain health is a proof of that. For that reason, sometimes those who are skilled and especially trained can help us to understand what is happening to these physical bodies and advise us in the pursuit of acceptable maintenance which God requires.

I went to an ophthalmologist for an eye exam. His conclusion was that based on the condition of the eyes themselves, I should be seeing 20/20. Yet, I could not see all that well. At that point, he suggested I see a neurologist, feeling the problem had to be in the part of the brain that controls vision, the occipital lobe (visual cortex). The peripheral part of my vision is virtually nil.

The cause of the problem seemed to stem from a significantly high level of blood pressure—both the systolic and the diastolic. In fact the level was such it was considered a "medical alert." The neurologist felt that my vision loss stemmed from a "minor" stroke—possibly a T.I.A. T.I.A., or Transient Ischemic Attack, simply means a restriction of the blood flow in the brain. They are what is called medically *incomplete* strokes. Such an attack is a red flag, a warning.

He wanted me to go to the hospital immediately for further testing and the commencement of a program for immediate blood-pressure reduction. I refused these measures. Instead I was anointed and commenced a program of nutritional and behavioral

modification. The results are amazing and most encouraging. By a loving and thoughtful response of family and the benevolent actions of a concerned office staff, ministry, and ministerial trainees, the pressure is responding quickly. It is not normal, but I have no doubt, it will be soon. In fact, from the beginning—when it first happened—I knew it was of God and the healing, complete healing, would come in His own time. Preparing for Passover service this year, I was struck with God's statement to Moses. He said,

. . . O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. And the Lord said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say. And he said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart. And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do. And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God. And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs (Ex. 4:10–17).

Moses apparently was afflicted with a speech/speaking impediment. I was afflicted with a loss of vision. What is the difference? God is the Creator of the mouth and the eyes. Is He not able to heal either one? I was stunned with that passage. From that moment on I knew I dared not use the loss of my eyesight as an excuse for not doing His will. (For that reason, I made the Passover tape which will be sent out this year. I pray to God that it will accomplish that for which it is sent.) Yet, I knew, deep down inside of my being, I had been warned and I could not ignore that warning. To the best of my ability I am trying to keep a balance between the need to rest and allow the physical body the needed opportunity to recuperate and the natural desire to work and push myself. From youth I have loved challenges—the need to accomplish that which may seem to be impossible. It will be very difficult for me to orient myself differently. That new direction now seems imperative. This much I can say with a measure of certainty, I want most of all to do the will of God, and accomplish that which He has in mind for me. Please pray that I may always be doing the will of God—not that which seems right to me.

At the present time this much can be said. The eyesight is daily improving. The blood pressure is not yet normal but it is significantly reduced. God helping me, I will not resort to outside care. I was anointed. My God is sufficient for me. I will do that which is required physically. The problem was created by some defective pursuit over the years.

That defect, or defects, must be changed. That is my part. With the help of God, my part can also be achieved. His part is not, nor has it ever been, in doubt. With your continued concern and prevailing prayers, I feel confident I can and will complete the work which God has in mind for me. He kept me faithful to the truth at the time of the apostasy. Since our Father and God is a purposeful Being, I can believe only that He had purpose at that very time. I look forward to the resumption of full responsibility. I am most happy when serving the called and elect of God.

## **General Information**

For efficiency and effectiveness, as Mr. Jon Brisby travels, he will have opportunity to speak at some of the church locations in the United States. We will try to keep the membership apprized of his travels. From information which he provides us a schedule of locations will be developed. Such planning will benefit all who are involved.

This general announcement will serve as necessary information and authorization of Mr. Brisby to assume total ministerial control when he comes into your area. Through the medium of this *Announcement Letter* we will try to keep you informed. Further, we suspect Jon will be contacting any of the leadmen affected by his travels. Mr. Brisby comes with the full support of the office here in Eugene. We are most pleased with Jon's growth and willingness to be used in this way. Great blessings still befall the people of God. We know all of you will give your love and support to him. We heartily thank you.

## **Blessings of Brethren**

Christopher Kidwell and Melissa Guthrie were united in marriage on February 9, at Catonsville, Maryland. Mr. Bryce Clark officiated. We congratulate the couple and wish them many happy years to come.

## **Feasts**

This coming holyday season Mr. David Carter and Mr. Jon Brisby will be assisting in the Passover and holyday services. We will be looking forward to their assistance and know you will be benefitted by what they can contribute. We appreciate your prayers for a successful and beneficial holyday season.

## Trip Schedule

April 12	Baltimore	*J.W.B.
April 19, 20, 21, 22	Knoxville	R.C.C., *J.W.B.
April 26	Austin	R.C.C.
May 10	Modesto	B.G.C.
May 17	Florida	R.C.C.
May 24	Rochester	R.C.C.

\*Mr. Jon Brisby's trips will be included here as we are made aware of them. He may not always be aware of them early enough for them to be included.

## Tape Schedule

<u>Tape Series</u>	<u>Mailed</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Title/tape #</u>
WSE-RC 59-57	01/08	<b>03/01</b>	Despair or Glory, Which? #57
WSE-BC 147-34	01/08	<b>03/08</b>	Mighty Acts & Miracles of God #34
WSE-RC 59-58	01/22	<b>03/15</b>	Despair or Glory, Which? #58
WSE-BC 149-15	01/22	<b>03/22</b>	The Teachings of Christ #15
WSE-RC 59-59	02/05	<b>03/29</b>	Despair or Glory, Which? #59
WSE-BC 147-35	02/05	<b>04/05</b>	Mighty Acts & Miracles of God #35
WSE-RC 59-60	02/19	<b>04/12</b>	Despair or Glory, Which? #60
WSE-BC 149-16	02/19	<b>04/19</b>	The Teachings of Christ #16
HPS/HNO 1997	03/26	<b>04/20</b> <b>04/21</b>	Passover Night to Be Observed
HUB 1997 1 & 2	03/26	<b>04/22</b>	First Day of Unleavened Bread AM & PM
WSE-RC 65-1	03/05	<b>04/26</b>	Prophetic Events Leading to the Return of Christ #1
HUB 1997 3 & 4	03/26	<b>04/28</b>	Last Day of Unleavened Bread AM & PM

In Christ's service,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark