

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter April 1997

Dear Brethren:

The beginning of a new sacred year is upon us. Within that new year all of God's holydays will once again be observed. Essential for acceptable observance is both retrospective and prospective evaluation. Without understanding past needs and accomplishments it is impossible to comprehend future direction. Let us all with candid determination make the feasts of 1997 the most meaningful ever. We can if we call out to God for help and set our minds to live honorably that way delivered. May you all have a glorious and most significant Passover and Unleavened Bread season.

Again, I would like to keep you current regarding my eye/vision condition. This time the need seems to be even more apparent than has been true of the past. I have heard from the Philippines that I am completely blind. Such misinformation is the very reason I decided to make full disclosure of the condition initially and to write an update each month thereafter. How the concept of total blindness emerged, I do not understand.

At the very beginning, I lost my vision, I could see nothing peripherally. Objects directly in front of me were visible—but not clearly. I was viewing things in a manner which seemed to be somewhat characteristic of viewing them through a very sheer curtain. The only time I seemed to be totally blind was the moment I lost the vision. Quickly, I regained the capacity to see large objects and my surroundings which were in my immediate proximity. This condition made the crossing of the street—mentioned earlier—very difficult. Some vision returned quickly after the initial loss and the basic sight has been improving daily from that day to the present. God has been very good. I have never feared or worried about the matter. I had a strong feeling from the time of the attack that God allowed it and that the resolution would come in His own time.

Please know that I respect and deeply appreciate all your fervent and heartfelt prayers. There are literal times in which I have felt the influence of those prayers. Would you please continue to appeal to our God and loving Father? I want, and long, to serve the chosen of God more aggressively and efficiently. In this context I must learn what it is to be patient. I have never been patient with myself. Up to this time I have been able to drive myself to achieve whatever I set my mind to do. Being unable to do that now has been the hardest part of this painful, humiliating experience. The mind still works. It is only the partial loss of

vision and its accompanying consequences which limit me. Rest assured my dear brethren, when God wills to intervene, I will again be about my Father's business.

Month by month I will try to keep you informed. What God has allowed to happen is no secret. I deserved it all—and, unfortunately, a lot more. It is in His unbelievable mercy I have great confidence and trust. Sometime in the future, both you and I will know the reason(s) for things which have happened. At issue for the present is the spiritual ability to accept His will, without complaint, and yet, not allow ourselves to fret but continue to do the best we can with the abilities and capacity which remain. I have found that any one of us can, despite impediment, do much in the cause of truth. For that I am most grateful. Further, using the mental capacity which God gave and the keen desire to work, I will yet improve and be more productive in that work to which I was called until the arrival of that time when God will miraculously intervene exactly as He has promised.

Please do not worry or grievously concern yourselves. Let us count it a joy to suffer for the cause of truth and the ultimate fulfillment of His awesome purpose. There is nothing God cannot change—whenever He wills. If we continue faithfully in that way to which we were called, tomorrow will bring a day in which none of the sorrows of this present one will prevail. What more glorious anticipation could we have? Our present attention should be focused on the individual responsibility of preparation—the daily examination and crucifixion of the self.

My love and prayers are with you. Please continue to pray for us. Thanks to God's intervention and your continuing prayers I can see so much better and am able to do much work. All factors for which I am so very thankful and appreciative. Remember, I remain your servant in Christ.

Prayer Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Deaths

Mrs. Edith Carter: Mrs. Edith Carter, age 94, the mother of Myra Cole, died on March 12. She had been in declining health for some time. Funeral services were held in Benton, Illinois on March 18. Our condolences are extended to Myra and her family.

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.

The May trip Mr. Cole scheduled for the Florida and Rochester, New York areas has been canceled. In due time a newly revised schedule will be made available.

Tape Schedule

<u>Tape Series</u>	<u>Mailed</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Title/tape #</u>
WSE-BC 147-35	02/05	04/05	Mighty Acts & Miracles of God #35
WSE-RC 59-60	02/19	04/12	Despair or Glory, Which? #60
WSE-BC 149-16	02/19	04/19	The Teachings of Christ #16
HPS/HNO 1997	03/26	04/20 04/21	Passover Night to Be Observed
HUB 1997 1 & 2	03/26	04/22	First Day of Unleavened Bread AM & PM
WSE-RC 65-1	03/05	04/26	Prophetic Events Leading to the Return of Christ #1
HUB 1997 3 & 4	03/26	04/28	Last Day of Unleavened Bread AM & PM
WSE-BC 147-36	03/05	05/03	Mighty Acts & Miracles of God #36
WSE-RC 65-2	03/19	05/10	Prophetic Events Leading to the Return of Christ #2
WSE-BC 153	03/19	05/17	How Does the Bible View Animals?
WSE-RC 66	04/02	05/24	Satan's Kingdom and the Purposeful Creation of Man
WSE-BC 154	04/02	05/31	The Truth about Human Nature

In Christ's service,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark