

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter July 1997

Dear Brethren:

Another month has passed. God continues to help and inspire regardless of the visual limitations. I can with confidence state, I am able to cope better with the condition as it exists. I cannot precisely differentiate between what may be my body's ability to adjust and respond as opposed to an actual improvement in my visual capacity. Needless to say, whatever has happened, my confidence has greatly increased. As I have stated several times before, I am not nearly as concerned about an ultimate healing as I am about understanding all the "whys" involved. Further, based on the original assurance which came from God—at the very time I lost the vision—as well as some responses which I have heard from brethren recently, I am compelled to wonder if we, as the chosen people of God, are ready to be taught whatever God has in mind. Without doubt, the strong mental impress at the time of the attack—"do not worry I will take care of the matter"—implies some very significant purpose. And, please dear brethren, make sure you understand, I do not intend to conjure up some personalized explanation for the impression. I will patiently await a direct indication from God. He is perfectly capable of doing His work. He does not need my assistance, or that of anyone else. He alone knows why and understands the purpose involved in the situation.

I do not ask for healing specifically. I am asking God to reveal His purpose. I ask only that you request that the same understanding may be given to me. I have not, and do not even now, ask God to heal only. I want to know why, so that necessary changes can be made. Without such understanding the experience will have been in vain. I can truthfully say, to understand is many times more important to me than the perfect restoration of vision. As God said to the Apostle Paul, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. . . ." And to this statement Paul responded: "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me" (II Cor. 12:9). I can do no better than simply state the same thing. May the will and purpose of God stand unalterable forever. The physical condition is but for a short time. The spiritual purpose is for eternity. Only a foolish individual would accept the physical.

I want to continue as a servant of God. The sufferings and accusations a servant of Christ must bear are a small price for the hope of everlasting life. From the depth of the heart, I trust that whatever God purposed will be accepted and that this may be an experience from which all will learn. Would it not be wonderful if we all could learn from history and the experience of others rather than be forced to undergo terrible experiences of our own? Rarely has such a response occurred in human history.

Thanks again for your continued prayer. I have received heartwarming and inspirational letters and calls from loving, caring, and concerned members. May God's love and beneficence be showered upon all the deserving. Let me, once again, assure you, I can actually feel the effects of those prayers. That in itself is quite an experience.

All my love and thoughts of kindness. Until next time, please take care and know that the faithful are greatly loved and respected.

Feast of Tabernacles

Feast of Tabernacles: We are now in the countdown prior to the Feast for 1997. To have a successful and rewarding Feast it is necessary to call upon God unitedly for such an occasion. By seeking the help of God, we can eliminate the active and disruptive presence of Satan and his demons. As a vicious adversary he can and will cause much trouble unless we earnestly seek the help of God. The fruits borne will reveal how diligent and effective our prayers were in this countdown time. We count on you.

In order that we may begin preparation of schedules for the Feast we need to know as soon as possible if any will be attending at a different Feast site than usual. We must soon begin work on the scheduling of emcees and those who give opening and closing prayers.

Part of our preliminary work involves the music program for the two Feast sites. Any who plan to participate in the music program this year should have notified Richard Meyn at the church office before the end of June. If you have not already done so please contact him as soon as possible. He is already working on this year's performance material.

Please be reminded the deadline for second tithe requests for the Feast of Tabernacles is August 15. Any who need assistance should notify us in ample time.

Trip Schedule

July 12

Vancouver, B.C.

B.G.C.

Tape Schedule

<u>Tape Series</u>	<u>Mailed</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Title/tape #</u>
WSE-BC 157	05/14	07/05	The Last Days: What Christians Should Be Alert To
WSE-BC 149-17	05/14	07/12	The Teachings of Christ #17
WSE-DC 3	05/28	07/19	Do We Make the Most of What We Have Been Given?
WSE-BC 147-37	05/28	07/26	Mighty Acts & Miracles of God #37
WSE-DC 4	06/11	08/02	How to Deal with Pre-Feast Trials
WSE-BC 149-18	06/11	08/09	The Teachings of Christ #18
WSE-RC 72	06/25	08/16	You Can Know Your Future!
WSE-147-38	06/25	08/23	Mighty Acts & Miracles of God #38
WSE-DC 6	07/09	08/30	How Will We Respond to God?

In Christ's service,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark

