

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter August 1997

Dear Brethren:

I cannot offer you the news for which I feel you have been praying. My sight is about the same as it was last month. I do feel more confident in that which I am doing. I feel, however, that confidence is coming from an overall adjustment to the limitation (just returned from picking up the mail). Our box is across the street. When looking both ways for traffic—a quite busy avenue—I noticed what appeared to be good improvement in the peripheral vision. At least I feel confident I have not lost any ground. Confidence in the promise of God and the ability to continue with work God gave gives continued cause for optimism. Though I do not understand the "whys" yet. I know the experience was not without purpose. In God's own time understanding will come. Thanks again for all the benevolent, kind, and prevailing prayers.

Conditions and circumstances of life continue to degenerate. What really matters is that we all prepare adequately for that fateful day. I sincerely pray and hope that none who have commenced this walk of life will lose out just before crossing that anticipated finish line. Please remain strong and courageous. You are the beloved, called of God, and the promised recipients of our Father's abundance. With warm affection, we again thank you for the opportunity of service. Your servant's in Christ.

Portland, Oregon

In September Mr. Jon Brisby will be in Portland for a business conference. He will be the guest speaker on Sabbath, September 20. This will be a marvelous blessing for the brethren of that area. His message will be recorded for the tape program. Lead men should make all preparations for the occasion.

Feast of Tabernacles

Now is the time to begin praying urgently that God will grant us peaceful and rewarding observance in all areas where He has set His name—the appointed areas. We are living in disquieting times. We cannot have what we desire unless we diligently ask God for it. Your fervent prayers will make a very great difference.

Tapes Sent From the Feast

In the past couple of years, due to serious health situations, a few people were sent tapes directly from the Feast sites. But, as usually happens, a crisis need becomes an alternative. God commands our presence at the appointed Feast site. Simply receiving the tapes is not fulfilling the convocation command given by God. He said, "You shall appear before me at the appointed place." In order to comply with the command of God, we are obligated to reconsider the previous practice of sending tapes out at the time of the Feast. Beginning with the Feast of 1997, these tapes will be sent early only to those who were planning to attend but health circumstances prevented. Others will be sent the tapes at the regularly scheduled time following the Feast. Sending tapes early requires a lot of work for personnel during the time they themselves should be free to fulfill the requirements of Feast attendance. Further, production of tapes at the time of the meetings is more difficult. It also necessitates the purchase of additional equipment—equipment which is used once a year only. We must use the time of personnel wisely and limit the administrative use of second tithes. Just as rapidly as time and other work allow, the Feast tapes will be made ready and sent to those who request them. Thanks for your understanding. It is always a pleasure to serve those who love the truth of God and willingly manifest that attitude of mind which is characteristic of God.

Note: In order for anyone to receive special tapes from the Feast a recommendation from a lead man—in his own area—is both required and sufficient for an evaluation here at the office. In general, we need to remember, keeping the Feast is not just receiving the tapes. It is a convocation—a time when we come together at the appointed place.

Only in very rare cases, from this time forward, will there be any approval for sending tapes out during the Feast.

Excess Second Tithe

Just a yearly reminder of the need for second tithe to cover administrative and facility costs for the Feast. We want you to reserve adequate for an enjoyable and meaningful Feast. At the same time, we *all* must remember, to keep the Feast requires the rental of halls, transportation, aid to those who are deserving, etc. If we all contribute, the burden for each is relatively small. A huge thanks to those whose hearts and minds are willing. May God richly and abundantly bless you in all ways.

Second Tithe Requests

As mentioned last month, 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.

Returning Used Cassette Tapes

Those driving to the Feast may bring cassette tapes that are no longer being used. We will once again transport them back to Eugene from the Feast sites. In Townsend, Tennessee they will be collected and boxed for shipment. Mr. Tim Sherwood will be responsible for collecting and boxing. Remember, you may keep any tapes which are not clear or white. Duplication of Feast sermon tapes requires an enormous number of new cassettes and these returned tapes help to offset the cost.

Special Announcements

There will be a Sabbath service, October 25, in Townsend, Tennessee following the Feast. We will meet in the same location where the Feast meetings were held.

Feast of Trumpets: Thursday, October 2.

Atonement: Sabbath, October 11. A time when the requirements of the holy day supercedes those of the Sabbath.

Note: Appointed leaders should make necessary arrangements for services in all local areas.

Tape Schedule

<u>Tape Series</u>	<u>Mailed</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Title/tape #</u>
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?
WSE-BC 147-19	07/09	09/06	The Teachings of Christ #19
WSE-RC 73-1	07/23	09/13	Biblical Perfection: In the Old Testament
WSE-BC 158	07/23	09/20	The Characteristics, Effects and Curses of Sin
WSE-RC 73-2	08/06	09/27	Biblical Perfection: In the New Testament

In Christ's service,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark