

Church of God, The Eternal

P. O. Box 775
Eugene, Oregon 97440

Raymond C. Cole
Director
Bryce G. Clark
Asst. Director

Offices in:
Canada
Philippines
Switzerland

Announcement Letter December 1997

Dear Brethren:

The passage of time has always mesmerized men. Yet, it seems almost impossible to grasp just how fast it does move. The Feast of 1997 is only a memory. Work relating to the upcoming early feasts of 1998 is now consuming much of our time. 1998 will be upon us. Preparation for us all must begin now, or we cannot perform that which is required of us.

Spiritual Principle/Current Events: World Religion

The drive is on toward a universal world religion. The buzzword in politically correct religious discourse these days is "reconciliation." For example, we recently received a letter from Bill McCartney, the founder of the Promise Keepers movement, inviting our pastors to attend a regional pastors conference. According to McCartney, the conference is "designed to position the church for revival and awakening by gathering a diverse group of reconciled Christian clergy" to begin "building community relationships" and "actively pursuing reconciliation." Our former affiliation regularly speaks of "reconciliation with historic Christianity." The basic orientation is that in order to accomplish "God's work" we must all pull together, pool our resources, and sit down at a table and come to some sort of agreement. In the name of "unity," each group is asked to acknowledge the legitimacy of the others.

Another example of this same spirit is a pamphlet we recently received from The Institute for World Spirituality, an "interfaith" group founded in 1987 to address the "spirit of intolerance, competitiveness and prejudice which too often dominates the relationship between the world's religious communities." Some of the organization's projects include: 1) "The International Religious Directory Project" created for the purpose of compiling "accurate information [on] every religious group in the world." 2) "The EarthMan Institute" which describes itself as the continuation of "the work of the men's movement on masculine initiation and a mature masculinity." The institute strives "toward systemic, community and

personal development." (Notice the parallels to the Promise Keepers movement). And, 3) A conference on worldwide religious persecution to be held in Chicago. According to the pamphlet, "the goal of this conference is to call individuals and faith communities to network and organize against threats to religious pluralism. Such threats not only violate religious liberties, but also impede understanding and commitment to interfaith cooperation on global problems challenging our common human future." The question is, are we as God's people ultimately a threat to this drive toward religious pluralism? Is the truth of God divisive? (Ex. 8:23; Luke 12:51; Heb. 4:12; Matt. 25:32). The fact is: The true church has always been viewed as subversive and dangerous (Acts 17:6). Are we to have fellowship with other "faiths" in the name of achieving some great "work" or in committing to "interfaith cooperation" to solve some great world problem? (Ps. 94:20–21; I Cor. 10:20; Eph. 5:11). See especially Ezra 4:1–6. What does the building of the temple in Ezra 4:1 symbolize spiritually, and whom does God allow to participate? A time of intense religious persecution is just ahead for those who refuse to be a part of this developing system. Are we preparing for it?

Office

The cutoff date for 1997 tithes will be January 7, 1998. Please keep this in mind for those contributions you wish to have included in your 1997 statement. Remember, they must be dated 1997.

Tape Mailing

The three-tape-sermon series by Mr. Raymond Cole, mentioned in last month's *Announcement Letter*, has been completed. It is actually four sermons and the tapes will be sent out during the next two mailings. The normal tape schedule will resume in January.

Trip Schedule

December 20, 27

Philippines

R.C.C., J.W.B.

Tape Schedule

Tape Series	Mailed	For	Title/tape #
WSE-RC 74-2	10/01	12/06	Sanctification: Be You Holy (Part Two)
WSE-DC 8	10/01		Identifying Your Adversaries
WSE-BC 147-41	10/01	12/13	Mighty Acts & Miracles of God #41
WSE-RC 75-1	10/29	12/20	How Much Do We Really Fear God?
WSB-JB 1	10/29		What Should We Have Learned From the Apostasy?
WSE-BC 159-3	10/29	12/27	Ten Commandments: Relating to Statutes & Judgements #3
WSE-RC 75-2	11/12	01/03	How Much Do We Really Fear God?
WSE-DC 9	11/12		God's Truth: Where is it Today?
WSE-BC 147-42	11/12	01/10	Mighty Acts & Miracles of God #42
WSE-RC 75-3	11/26	01/17	How Much Do We Really Fear God?
WSE-JB 1	11/26		Do We Truly Appreciate Our Calling?
WSE-BC 159-4	11/26	01/24	Ten Commandments: Relating to Statutes & Judgements #4
WSE-RC 76-1	12/10	01/31	Turmoil in the Church in the Last Days #1
WSE-RC 76-2	12/10		Turmoil in the Church in the Last Days #2

In Christ's service,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark