

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter June 1998

Dear Brethren:

There seems to be no area of the United States of America—indeed, of the world—immune from tragedy. Springfield, Oregon was recently shocked from its slumber—May 22. Though unknown to most humanity until that tragic date, it is well known around the world now.

There will be mountains of discussions, reflections on the past, and a host of "what-ifs." But, if the past is any indication, the shock will wear off and little, if anything, will be done about the matter.

What happened is a symptom of our sick society. Yet, until responsible individuals ask, and correctly answer, the hard questions, the continuation of tragedy and grief is inevitable.

It is not my intent to address elements of such tragedies within the pages of this letter. That, God-willing, I intend to do in a sermon here in Eugene following my trip to Europe for Pentecost services. For the present, allow me to make a singular statement and then pose a logical question. Man is defiant and totally rebellious against the will and ways of God. It is very hard for the called and converted to recognize and admit innate character flaws. How can, or, should we, even expect the unconverted to respond to the underlying societal problems which are being flashed in blazing headlines around the world? When man analyzes he will inevitably employ carnality—the very basis of his problem. Can he under such circumstances ever hope to arrive at acceptable answers? As life continues, men will become more and more hardened. This will be witnessed by the fact that volatility, defiance, and contempt will reign in the days when God begins to correct society for the purpose of softening and bringing them to a teachable orientation. That attitude which is essential for the institution of the new order under Jesus Christ. Please read the sixteenth chapter of Revelation. The hardness seems almost impossible to believe.

The big question right now is this: Is man already experiencing an element of that hardness? Indeed, it is quite likely. Just take a look at those who have turned away from the truth and are again following the dictate of the flock and the carnal mind. It is not hard to

see them in the above picture. Was the Apostle Paul writing of this generation when he wrote Hebrews chapters three and four? Please study them carefully.

Update

My eye condition continues to improve. I cannot even properly convey my gratitude and appreciation for the fact I still have sight. With God's marvelous help I have been able to continue my work to this day. It is hard, very difficult, but I can still accomplish what needs to be done.

Since God has sustained me through this long trial, I am compelled to ask myself, would a restoration of complete sight be any more difficult? Emphatically, NO! Then, obviously the condition continues for reason. I say with emphasis, "let the will of God be done." I do not want my will. Long ago I tried to surrender my all to God—our Creator and Sustainer. Further, I have tried determinably to give that "all" to the called people of God in love, affection, and service. Despite the times of contention and strife, I have found great satisfaction in that sacrifice. To my dying day, or change if God so wills it, I want to be able to continue to use all my faculties in that service to which I was called. Please continue to pray for my eyesight and good health. For that kindness, I give you my thanks and appreciation. As Paul said to those whom he served, you are, and will be always, in my heart and mind. God's chosen are priceless in His eyes and also those who are true servants of the children of the Father.

Deaths

Mr. Don Broyles of LaFollette, Tennessee died the morning of May 27. He was the husband of Helen Broyles. He suffered from complications as a result of cancer of the lungs and esophagus. We express our sincere condolences to Mrs. Broyles and her family.

Feast of Tabernacles

Sabbath Services

Sabbath Services will be held both in Newport, Oregon, and Eugene, Oregon on October 3. The time for both services will be according to the Eugene Service conventional time—2:00 p.m. Apparently there will be sufficient in both locations to warrant a full service. Mr. Jon Brisby will be in Oregon on October 3 to assist with these meetings. Further details will be given later in the year.

Scheduling Emcees, Opening and Closing Prayers

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.

Music Program

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 notify Richard Meyn at the church office before the end of June. He is already working on this year's performance material. As always, everyone's participation and effort will be greatly appreciated.

Internet Articles

The series of articles written for the Internet called "Great Men of the Old Testament," has been completed. It will not be automatically mailed out to members as it will take some time to print and bind. It will be made available at the Feast in spiral bound form. Those that have access to the Internet may view and download the entire series on the church web-site address: <http://www.cogte.org>

New Office

Please note that our mailing address remains the same:

PO Box 775, Eugene, OR 97440-0775

The new office phone numbers are:

(541) 344-8880

(541) 344-8881 (fax/secondary phone number)

The church web-site address is:

<http://www.cogte.org>

Trip Schedule

June 1, 6	Switzerland	R.C.C.
June 20	Florida	J.W.B.

Tape Schedule

Tape Series	Mailed	For	Title/tape #
WSE-DC 13	03/18	06/06	One Mind—And It's Not Yours
WSE-BC 159-7	03/18	06/13	Ten Commandments As They Relate to Statutes & Judgements #7
WST-JB 2	04/01	06/20	How Is God Preparing Us?
WSE-BC 147-46	04/01	06/27	Mighty Acts & Miracles of God #46
WSE-RC 78-2	04/15	07/04	My Sheep—Hear My Voice! #2
WSE-BC 159-8	04/15	07/11	Ten Commandments As They Relate to Statutes & Judgements #8
WSE-BC 147-47	04/29	07/18	Mighty Acts & Miracles of God #47
WSE-DC 14	04/29	07/25	The Signs of the Times

In Christ's service,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark