

## *The Grace to Die Well*

Written by Ronald L. Dart in the 1980's

When it comes my turn to die—and it will come—I hope that God will give me the grace to die well.

I know I will fear it, for I already do, but I am not sure what I fear. It is not just the pain, because death doesn't hurt. It is living that hurts. Even though dying can be painful, we endure most of our pain while trying to stay alive. Surgery and chemotherapy are not inflicted on us by the disease, but by the doctor.

The body has no malice. Pain is not a penalty imposed on us by the body. The body hurts to tell us something is wrong. It asks us to take action to make things right again. When you grab hold of a hot pan, the body screams at you to let go. We call the scream "pain."

Like any other sane person, I fear pain, but that is not why I am afraid to die, for I will endure great pain and suffering to keep on living. I will go through surgery, not once, but a dozen times. I will endure days and weeks in agony, if necessary, just to stay alive. I will grit my teeth and endure suffering worthy of a medieval torture chamber in the hopes that my life might be prolonged.

When we were children, we understood little of death. We may have prayed the little child's prayer, "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep, If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take," but we didn't really go to bed in fear of death.

Nevertheless, children do hate to go to bed—basically because they are afraid they will miss something. A child will risk the pain of a spanking to stay awake and stay involved. I can't help wondering if there is a little of that fear that stays with us all our lives. Even those of us who look forward to the resurrection, still dread death. It may not be a lack of faith at all. It may be closer to a child's response to going to bed—whatever is going on, we want to be in on it.

Solomon thought of death in much the same way: "A living dog is better than a dead lion," he said, "For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not

any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 9:4-6).

As I get older, I find myself hating to go to bed. There is so much fun to be had, so much living to do, so

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### **We Must Go Forward**

Ronald Dart tried to leave steps and procedures in place for *Born to Win* to outlive him. It has never been about a man, but about faithfully doing God's work. Ron recognized declining world conditions. He realized he must do everything he could to reach the world with the message of Jesus Christ and to fortify the church and every Christian so they would not fall, but make it into God's Kingdom. We at *Born to Win* feel an enormous burden to get on with the work God started through Mr. Dart. We have a sense of urgency to preach the Word to little kids, teens, the church, and the world at large. *We need you to do your part.* This is not a time for slack, but to give our mission that second effort. We cannot do it alone. We are counting on you to pick up the slack in any way you can to honor Mr. Dart's memory and Jesus Christ, our Savior.

# Allie's Eulogy

By Allie Dart

Ronald L. Dart passed gracefully and quietly in his sleep early Sabbath morning, January 23, 2016 at the age of 82. God began Ron's Sabbath rest without apparent suffering. I checked him throughout the night and he didn't seem to be in pain. He just slipped away with no groaning, and apparently with little or no pain.

Ron has made his calling and election sure and left a matchless legacy. He is peacefully waiting the resurrection of the dead. I must qualify to join him at that time. I loved him so much and that love was always reciprocated.

Contrary to what many might have thought, it was not the head injury that took Ron's life. For maybe 25 years he had cutaneous T-cell lymphoma—a very rare type of skin cancer. His dermatologist always told him that patients with that disease rarely died because of it, but something else. Ron was an exception to this rule.

Before that disease progressed, Ron was making slow but steady improvements from the head injury—walking with a cane, and even walking around the house required no additional support. We carried on normal conversations, went out to eat, to Sabbath services where he said the prayer and sang special music, to the office where he made the weekly promo that preceded the Friday night Bible study. This was truly the highlight of his week.

Ron still enjoyed life. He loved our beautiful tree-shaded neighborhood where we lived. He looked forward to seeing deer cross our property, squirrels chase each other up the trees, birds eating out of the feeder, butterflies getting nectar from the flowers, and raccoons on our deck begging for food. He often commented on how thankful he was that we lived where we did.

As you may know, Ron loved music—virtually every kind. His father sang bass in the *Melody Four Gospel Quartet* when Ron was a little boy. As Ron said, he learned to love God and Jesus Christ through Gospel music.

After Ron fell and had such a debilitating head injury, surgery was required. Almost immediately after he was brought back to ICU he began singing *Amazing*

*Grace*. At that point, he didn't know my name, or what the Bible was, but he could praise God in song. I was amazed at the number of words to songs he remembered.

There were so many things Ron loved to do, but was unable to do after his fall. Things that occupied his time more than anything else were: listening to CDs of his sermons and broadcasts and the Bible read on CDs, and singing. At first he didn't recognize that he was hearing his own voice and would say, "He's good!" Ron's heart seemed to be overflowing with love for God. Since he was unable to deliver a sermon, he could, and did, sing about God's love.

For the last almost six years, he was in and out of hospitals, ERs, and nursing homes. Our schedule was filled with doctor's appointments. The past few months, I pushed his wheelchair with him and his oxygen into doctor's offices and he would begin singing—usually "Let the Lower Lights Be Burning" or "Amazing Grace." The staff and nurses loved it and would stop what they were doing to listen and tell him what a good voice he had. It was the talent he had left to be able to share the Gospel since he could no longer do it the way he once did. He did what he could do to the very end.

The nights before Ron passed, he was becoming unresponsive. I went into his room asking how he was doing and trying to stir a response. Then I began singing "Let the Lower Lights Be Burning." I got to the chorus and he began harmonizing with me.

Ron sang special music and led in prayer a number of Sabbaths at our little fellowship group—usually Lower Lights or *What a Friend We Have In Jesus*. He wanted to be involved and contribute. He yearned to be back doing the work for God that he once did. And the last few weeks, he so wanted to make a recording for all of you to hear.

I feel Ron's funeral was a real honor and tribute to his life. Mr. Jon Garnant and the three men who gave eulogies did a wonderful job telling Ron's life story. I felt Ron would want a lot of music at his funeral—a representation of the different types of music he enjoyed was sung. I felt the message in "I'll Meet You In

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*The Morning*" was a positive way to bring closure. It was a song his dad sang with the *Melody Four Quartet*.

"*Wind Beneath My Wings*" was for me. We had such a wonderful marriage. We loved each other more than life itself. Ron was so grateful for my love and care giving and expressed it often. He was supportive of me and truly the "wind beneath my wings." We were a team meant for each other, as we often said. Thank God for such a wonderful relationship!

Ron's internment at the Whitehouse Cemetery was one of the most poignant times of the day. Ron having been in the Navy for four years deserved the military honors of the presentation of the United States flag and "*Taps*" echoing across the landscape. It was a very meaningful part of Ron's history and the day's events.

After the internment, dear friends and family gathered at the CEM corporate office to share their memories of Ron Dart and enjoy a Mexican dinner.

Ron wanted CEM and *Born to Win* to continue—to outlive him. That's exactly what we plan to do. Most of Ron's *Born to Win* messages are timely and timeless. He taught the Bible. After Ron's passing, his voice will not be the first to remain on the air. J. Vernon McGee's messages are still playing on the air 25 years after his death. We at CEM plan to be creative and innovative continuing to offer the world the fantastic opportunity to hear the Bible explained in such clear and understandable terms. We need your prayers. We need your support. How much *Born to Win* is able to do will now depend very much on you. You can continue to make an eternal difference. Do it for Ron! Do it for God!

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If you did not watch the live streaming of his funeral, you can go to CEM's website and see it or you can also call or write us and request a free copy.

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## A New Way for CEM to Share the Gospel

Jesus gave instructions to the 11 remaining Apostles before His ascension: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:19-20).

More and more brethren are beginning to realize that if they don't do something to advance the Gospel in their community, no one else will. Right now CEM needs individuals to help share the Good Message in a new way.

Before you begin, though, there is one very important thing to remember. Evangelism and church building are not the same thing.

Not to put too fine a point on it, but the great commission cited above does not say, "Go ye therefore and build my church." On the contrary, Jesus made it clear that He would build His church (Matthew 16:18). Luke is at some pains in the Book of Acts to tell us that, after Pentecost, "the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:47 KJV). You and I plant and water, but God gives the increase (I Corinthians 3:6).

Servants of God must work to God's timetable and trust Him for the results that may be out of sight. So, where can you begin?

Every year in this country more than 3.5 million truckers drive an estimated 432.9 billion miles. A large portion of these drivers search for something to listen to, while driving for hours alone. Several listeners and supporters of the *Born to Win* program are part of this industry. They feel we should supply CDs to truck stops across the United States because the time spent driving provides an awesome opportunity to hear the Word of God as taught by Ronald L. Dart.

Our dilemma—how do we get the CD's to the truck stops? The employees are not allowed to stock outside merchandise, that is not directly from their suppliers.

Chances are you may have long been frustrated by a lack of opportunity to participate in sharing the Gospel. If so and you live near the major interstate highways and would be willing to help us with this truck stop ministry please call us at 1-888-242-5344, send an email to [adm@borntowin.net](mailto:adm@borntowin.net) or just drop a note in the mail. We will get back to you with more information and set you up to help with this ministry.

# EULOGY FOR RON DART

By Richard Glasgow

Mr. and Mrs. Dart were transferred to Big Sandy, Texas, in 1973, when Mr. Dart became the Vice-Chancellor of Ambassador College.

My wife and I were juniors at the time and Mr. Dart was our instructor for at least one Bible class. Mr. Dart was an exceptional Bible teacher, and, as such, demanded a great deal from his students. His tests were very thorough and extremely challenging.

As students, we found Mr. Dart to be an imposing figure and very intimidating because of his stature and his superior intellect. I avoided asking questions in his class for fear of exposing my intellectual shortcomings. I don't remember ever approaching Mr. Dart or engaging him in a conversation while we were in college because he was just so intelligent and I couldn't imagine what I could bring to a conversation with him. At the time I wasn't a very serious student of the Bible and didn't fully appreciate all that Mr. Dart had to offer in his Bible classes.

After we graduated in 1974, we lost track of the Darts for quite some time.

In 1999, a friend told us about the *Born to Win* radio program and we began listening to it on a Dallas station every morning at 6:30. We loved it—it was a great way to start the day as we got ready for work and school.

In no time at all we became addicted to *Born to Win*.

Ron's wit and wisdom and, of course, the dulcet tones of his voice, reminded me of one of my long time favorite radio personalities, Earl Nightingale. Some of you old timers may remember him. Years ago he did a short radio feature called *Our Changing Times*.

Shortly after discovering Ron on the radio, we learned he was speaking nearly every Sabbath in Tyler so we began attending church there.

Hearing Ron's sermons and the daily *Born to Win* programs elevated our love for the Bible. Thanks to Ron, we became enthusiastic students of the Bible once again.

Ron was the consummate teacher. He never thought of himself as a preacher, even though he was quite capable of preaching when he thought it was necessary. But he seldom preached, because he didn't want to give the impression he was talking down to people.

Ron was passionate about the Bible and his passion was infectious.

He always taught that it was the duty of all Christians to

live by every Word of God, but in order to *live* by every Word of God, you had to *read* every Word of God.

Not just read a chapter here or there, but the WHOLE book, over and over, so we could always be immersed in God's Word. How else can we know how to live our lives if we don't know what the Bible says?

And Ron constantly encouraged people to think.

He wanted everyone to thoroughly understand that our salvation is strictly between you and God; that no one, no family member, no friend, no minister, and no church, can ever be an intermediary between you and God. *That's* why he taught it was imperative we know what the Bible says.

Several years ago, after Ron's accident, when he was suffering from aphasia, I had the opportunity to do some studio work with CEM's sound engineer, Gary Gibbons, while I was doing the Weekend Bible Studies. I came in every Thursday for about six months to record the weekly Bible Study and Ron would often come in and the three of us would chat about this and that.

It was at a time when Ron was having a very tough time communicating. He could form his thoughts—he

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*“For he will finish the work, and cut it short  
in righteousness: because a short work will  
the Lord make upon the earth”  
(Romans 9:28).*

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much work to be done, and a lot of that work is work for God.

Yet I know that “if I should die before I wake,” my time will come to live again. Meanwhile, others will do what has to be done. I have no contribution to make that God cannot make through someone else. I dread death because I want to be there—I want to be involved.

If I were to become terminally ill, I would surely want the brethren to pray for me. I suppose I would want an announcement made in church. And yet, I don’t want to have to explain every day how I feel. I would like to spare my friends and loved ones the inevitable roller coaster of emotion that comes when we pray for one who is dying. “How is he today?” they ask. “Oh, he is much better. The doctor says it was a miracle the way he came through surgery.” But then he gets worse, much worse. Then there is another reprieve, another miracle. And then one day the call comes . . . and it’s over.

No one can understand what this does to family and friends. Whatever courage it takes to die well, it is worth it for their sakes.

But in truth, it is not so much courage I want, it is style. It is not only bad faith, it is bad form to pray and then check your pulse every five minutes. It seems to me that it is better form, and better faith, to pray and then get on with living—and then, when God is through with you, to pass from the scene gracefully—with style. After all, can’t I say as Paul did, “Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing.”

There is yet one more reason to die well. Too many seem to die before they are dead. They become hostage to their disease. They quit living and start dying much too soon. I don’t want to be asked to describe my tumor or display my scars. Every moment I spend describing the disease is given to the disease. It has already taken too much. Why should I give it any more?

I know people inquire because they care, but I should care enough not to burden them. There might be some value in it if, in the process of burdening them, I unburdened myself, but I don’t. I only increase my own burden.

I knew a man who, after a short struggle with cancer, was told by the doctor that he had two months to live.

He declined chemotherapy. The doctor offered it, but his heart wasn’t in it.

A lot of people knew about his plight, and a lot of people prayed for him. I presume he prayed for himself—he never said. When friends and relatives would call and ask him how he was, the answer was always the same: “I’m just fine,” he would say, and then he would change the subject. I suppose “just fine” is all in the definition, because he had a racking cough, was losing weight, and his face was lined with pain.

That was three years ago. And he’s still “just fine.” He just kept on living his life. To this day, he has never given the disease a minute. Whatever it gets from him, it will have to take.

Right now, I am in great health, I don’t have the terrible specter of disease hanging over my head, so it seemed like a good time to think about the most precious liberty our Savior has given us—the freedom from the fear of death: “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, [Jesus] Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage” (Hebrews 2:14). None of this is to say that we should not fight for our lives. But when we have prayed, when we have put our illness in the nail-scarred hands of Jesus Christ, we have given enough of our time to it. If worse comes to worse, let the doctors fight the disease—let them dwell on it, think about it, examine it, and worry about it—while we occupy ourselves with the business of living and the joy of loving.

#### **Addendum:**

Ronald L. Dart died peacefully in his sleep early Sabbath morning, January 23rd, from a prolonged battle with cutaneous T-cell lymphoma. His remarkable gifts of clarity and love and understanding of the Bible were devoted to teaching others.

Christian Educational Ministries, founded by Ron Dart in 1995, will continue to promote his timeless insights into God’s Word through the *Born to Win* program, his books, essays and audio messages. He was a gifted speaker and teacher who leaves a legacy of knowledge and understanding of the precious Word of God.

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knew what he *wanted* to say—but he couldn't always finish a sentence or a thought. Can you imagine how frustrating that must have been for a communicator as gifted as Ron?

Through it all, he never complained. He was always smiling and in good cheer; but he always wondered why this had happened.

He would bring up Romans 9:28, where it says: "For he will finish the work, and cut *it* short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth."

He didn't think this verse was talking about him, necessarily, he just knew there was a lot more work to be done and he thought *his* work had been cut short.

It has been an incredible privilege and honor getting to know Ron and Allie Dart. They've been a huge blessing to our family. Our daughter was baptized by Ron and the last wedding ceremony he performed was for her and her husband.

Most people die without a legacy, and they are generally forgotten in a generation or two.

Ron has a long-lasting legacy! His work will continue on via his many sermons, Bible studies and radio programs. His work isn't over by a long shot; he only *thought* it was.

In every sense of the word, Ron lived up to the *Born To Win* credo. He was indeed a winner. He was the quintessential winner. And we'll miss him.

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## Born to Win Opportunity

*Born to Win* is looking for a humble, God-fearing man, who is willing to teach the Bible as Ron Dart taught it, to be Vice President of Business and Ministerial Services. He will be required to live in the Tyler/Whitehouse area so he can daily work out of CEM's office. He will be expected to familiarize himself with CEM. He will need to understand the operation and see the full picture before changing it, or even adding his flavor (Proverbs 18:13). It is expected that his heart be fully in CEM's goals and objectives as a stand-alone ministry.

The General Manager must provide expertise by assisting in the formulation, development, and implementation of marketing and operating strategies and policies. He must assure the growth and success of CEM by ensuring that all employees meet or exceed established guidelines.

He will be expected to attend and speak at one or more CEM's Feast sites, and to assist in finding a suitable place(s) for the Feast of Tabernacles to be held each year.

He is expected to support the YEA program, to anchor our kids to Christ, and expand spiritual and physical activities for our youth.

All interested parties, please send your resume to Allie Dart, P.O. Box 560, Whitehouse, TX 75791.

## March Memory Verses

*Topic: Obeying God's Commands*

2 Chronicles 7:14

Romans 12:1

Romans 12:2

Romans 12:10-12

Romans 12:18

2 Corinthians 9:7

Hebrews 10:24-25

Proverbs 1:7

Proverbs 15:1

Deuteronomy 6:5

1 John 3:16

1 John 4:7-8

1 John 5:2-3

Remember you can purchase a copy of the book by Robert J. Morgan, *100 Bible Verses Everyone Should Know by Heart*, from CEM for \$12.95 or order it online.

## Born to Win

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*That the man of God may be proficient and  
equipped for every good work.*