

Living to Win

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Personal from . . .
Ronald L. Dart

The War Against Freedom

What's really going on in the world, and what is this "War on Terror" really about? When you get to the basics, what people call terrorism is actually a war against the spread of freedom. The war is being waged by the enemies of freedom. Their motive? They are mortally afraid. Only fear could drive men to the lengths these criminals are going. What are they afraid of? Well, freedom of course.

They think we are the problem, and that's why they struck the World Trade Center. They want us to stop the invasion of what they call western values into their world. But we can't stop it. We aren't the cause of it, merely the harbinger. We are no more the cause of freedom than the first robin on your lawn is the cause of spring. We aren't the cause of freedom. God is.

And the people of the countries dominated by Islam are beginning to smell freedom in the air, and the enemies of freedom are deathly afraid. The criminals who are behind all the death and destruction in the name of Allah

are afraid of liberty in the same way and for the same reason that the Jerusalem establishment feared Jesus.

Here was a Man who could step up to a man born blind and

make him see. A Man who could heal a withered arm, could heal a woman of a flow of blood that no one else could stop. He even brought back to life a man who had lain dead for four days. Jesus was a gentle man, soft spoken, harmless. And the Jerusalem

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DOUBLE YOUR GIFT!

Many companies offer a *matching gifts* program. **You may be working for one that will send CEM one dollar for every dollar you give to us.** If you don't know if your company will do this, check with them to see. This is a great way to double the impact of your gift of supporting the Gospel without costing you anything. For those whose employer's are matching gifts to CEM, thank you very much. If we can assist in making this possible, please let us know.

Also, many of you have asked about **making CEM a part of your estate plan.** You can do this by simply adding the statement to your will: I give, devise, and bequeath to Christian Educational Ministries, 1820 Shiloh, Tyler, TX 75703, and then insert your gift. An estate bequest can be a specific dollar amount, a specific piece of property, real or personal, or a percentage or all or part of the residue of an estate. Or, you can name CEM as a contingent beneficiary in the event someone else predeceases you.

It is always recommended that an attorney assist you in drafting or amending your will, but if you have any questions, please give us a call at 1-888-BIBLE-44 or e-mail Larry Watkins at lsw@cemnetwork.com. Be sure to **watch future issues for an article on how to give through annuities.** Thanks for all your help and support.



Meet Our Technical Team

Mike Hehl



Mike Hehl is our in-house Network Administrator and keeps things running smoothly. He moved to Tyler from Austin, TX in 2003, along with his wife Stacie, five year old son, David, and two year old daughter, Ashlyn. He received his Associate of Applied Science degree in Software Engineering from TSTC in Waco, TX. He is a Microsoft Certified Professional. Mike has experience as a technical support specialist working for Dell Computers, and as a software engineer. And although our network is not as large as Dell's, his technical expertise is essential to keeping us all up and running!

John Burris



CEM's website is our connection to the world, and John Burris is our connection to the website he is our Webmaster. Born in Arkansas, John grew up in Henderson, TX. He is an active Eagle Scout, and also active in his local church. He and his wife Jennifer have two children, Grant who is five years old, and daughter Erin who is 15 months old. John received his Associates degree in Computer Science from Kilgore College, his Bachelor degree in Finance from Stephen F. Austin College, and is also Microsoft Certified Professional. John joined the CEM staff in 2001, and his integral role as programmer for our data base applications, and backup to the network administrator have made him an indispensable member of the team.

Our First Sabbath School

The ABCOG in Chicago decided it was time to start Sabbath Schools for their children and teenagers. A group of ladies began planning. The big day came. Seventeen showed up for the Kick-off. I must tell you, it was so rewarding.

Our books arrived for the YEA classes on Thursday, so we were able to pass out the books to the children. All of the teachers were so prepared. We got to church at 9:00 in the morning and decorated the entire room for the Sabbath School. What amazed me, is how creative everyone got with their decorations and name tags. In my Intermediate Class (12-15), I had five teens. They were great. Sheila Bernardo had eight (9-11) children. Betty Husler had one little girl in her Primary class and Sheri Faulkner had three children in the Beginners (3-5) class. The kids were great. All the teachers had a ball with their students.

I asked for a volunteer to do the closing prayer for Sabbath School. They all just looked at me and then Armani decided he would do the prayer. Guys, we stood up and held hands while this 12 years old gave one of the most heartfelt prayers. As I listened to him, tears ran down my face because he was so sincere. I explained how important it was for them to study and memorize their memory verses each week. Armani's brother called me on Saturday night to ask if they should study the verse of the lesson that we had gone over that morning or move on to the next lesson. I was so thrilled to get that phone call because they had decided they would study their memory verse on Saturday Night!

A homeless guy promised to bring his kids for the kick-off. He needed someone to go to his ex-wife's home to pick up his kids. Nathan Ogilvie picked up his four daughters. Their hair was not combed and they needed to be cleaned up, but they were so happy to be there. It was so much fun watching them have fun. I tossed and turned all night thinking of these kids. Sunday, I called one of my church sisters and I told her how we needed to help these kids. She suggested that the Sabbath School have a spa day for the girls. I was on fire with the suggestion. Sheila will purchase clothes at a second

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establishment wanted to kill Him. Why?

The leadership council gathered one day and this was the question they asked: “What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation” (John 11:47-48).

They lived under Roman domination. Jerusalem was governed by the Romans. The Jews delivered Jesus to Pontius Pilate, remember. This Jesus was going around Jerusalem and Galilee setting people free. He was freeing their bodies and their minds. Freedom was central to His message: “If ye continue in my word,” said Jesus, “then are ye my disciples indeed; {32} **And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free**” (John 8:31-36). He went on to say, “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”

You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. Evil men have fought this idea from time immemorial. Tyrants have feared it. And so, they have gone to war to put an end to freedom. And one more time, the English speaking people have gone to war to protect freedom. It seems to be our destiny. Our country was born in a fight for freedom. Again and again since our birth as a nation, we have gone to war to save and restore freedom to oppressed peoples.

And it may have been the destiny of an American President to stand next to the Berlin wall and make the most remembered

demand of his presidency, “Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall.” That wall was an affront to freedom that no free man could tolerate.

Now the enemies of freedom may be right that we started this war. But the first troops to hit the beach were not armed with rifles. They were armed with blue jeans, hamburgers, and that greatest harbinger of freedom, the Internet. We could put an end to this war. How? We could put McDonald’s out of business, stop wearing Levi’s, stop making movies and television, take over all TV outlets by the government, make women wear burkhas. In a word, put an end to freedom. That might stop the war for a while.

You see, what’s causing the war is the fact that people in the developing countries are gaining access to the commerce of freedom. What the war on terror is all about, what the invasion of Afghanistan and then Iraq is all about, what the Patriot Act is all about, is to buy time. To try and prevent some terrible thing from happening while we wait for freedom to do its work until the people who are oppressed and downtrodden rise up and demand their freedom.

Do you know where this idea of freedom originated? We didn’t just dream it up one day, you know. Thomas Jefferson penned these words in the Declaration of Independence: “**We do hold these truths to be self evident: That all men are created equal and are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights.**” Our rights are our freedoms, and they

come from the Creator, not from man.

When God created man, He also planted a garden. A garden full of trees with every type of fruit imaginable. And He created man and put him in the garden, and He commanded the man thus: “**Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:** But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” Without arguing the literal meaning of the passage, consider the underlying truth. Man was free. He was warned about the one dangerous tree in the garden, but he was still free to eat of it.

When God brought Israel out of Egypt and into the promised land at long last, He did something very strange. He put no one in charge. There was no king. There was an administration of sorts comprised of the elders and priests, but there was no one figure in charge of them. God was their King.

They kept losing their freedom because they weren’t willing to pay the cost of it in moral behavior and faithfulness to God alone. And finally, they lay their freedom down and asked for a king. They set the cause of freedom back by thousands of years. It seems that freedom is frightening, not only to tyrants, but to the people as well. And it has taken us a long time to realize that the cost of tyranny is greater than the cost of freedom. We are still apt to forget unless someone reminds us.

Jesus was a great advocate of freedom, and not only in His “Ye

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shall know the truth” statement. Right from the start, His ministry was about freedom. In one of His first public messages, He read from the book of Isaiah: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, **to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord**” (Luke 4:16-19).

The acceptable year of the Lord is that year when all debts were forgiven and all captives set free. “This day,” Jesus said, “this scripture is fulfilled in your ears.” Jesus was here to announce liberty.

Time and space won’t allow me to develop this theme further, so I would like to send you a *FREE* cassette tape of a message titled, “The War Against Freedom.” It is truly surprising when you consider the implications of this for individual Christians and for nations of the world. Don’t hesitate. Just check the box on the enclosed card and send it right back to us.

Yours, in the defense of Freedom,
Ronald L. Dart

In Memory

Christian Educational Ministries gratefully acknowledges the generous donation made in loving memory of Marilyn Anne Reid Lewis who passed away November 18, 2003.

ACCOMPANIMENT CD's



Gerry Bernardo so graciously completed seven CDs of piano accompaniment for the songs in the new red hymnal. You’ll receive them in an attractive album. Telephone 1-888-BIBLE 44 for credit card orders or mail a check for \$19.95 to request the Hymnal CD Album.

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hand store in her neighborhood and I will do the same. These girls were so beautiful they just needed some loving and some time taken with them. Isn’t this what we’re suppose to do as a church? We must give back. So I am turning my home into a spa for the little girls and we will set up a part of the house for manicures and pedicures. We will wash their hair. My sister-in-law, who is a hairdresser, will come over and be a part. Mrs. Dart, I thank God for your vision with the YEA Program.

Sandra Curtis

Calendar of Events

Ft. Worth, TX area - *Meet the Teacher* February 14, 2004 at 2 p.m. at the Browning Heights Presbyterian Church, 5121 Stanley Keller Road, Haltom City, TX. For information, contact Ralph Collins at 817-246-1874 or Faye Brown at 1-888-BIBLE 44.

Jackson, MS - *Meet The Teacher* March 13, 2004 at 1:30 p.m. at the Clarion Hotel and Convention Center, 400 Greymont Ave., 601-969-2141. For additional information call Joe or Sandy Weicks at 601-853-3039 or Larry Waktins at 1-888-BIBLE 44.

Destin, FL - Spring Mini-Feast, April 3-6 at the Seascape Resort Conference Center. Ronald L. Dart is scheduled to speak April 3, 2:00 p.m., April 4, 10:30 a.m. Seminar, and 7:00 p.m. Passover Service, April 5, 10:30 a.m. Seminar, and 7:00 p.m. The Night to be Much Observed, April 6 at 2:00 p.m. For discounted, affordable housing see our website, www.cemnetwork.com, or call Shirley George 850-837-0485.

Birmingham, AL - “*Meet The Teacher*,” April 10 at the United Church of God, 5511 Bankhead Hwy., Irondale, AL. Ronald L. Dart will take your questions and answer them at 11 a.m., and will speak at 2 p.m. For further information call Gary Mercer at 205-988-4919

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