

# Living to Win

May 15, 2012  
Volume 17, Number 5  
Christian Educational Ministries

## Free Love

From Ronald L. Dart's *Born to Win* Notes

If you asked 100 people where the expression "free love" came from, I doubt you would find more than one person who knows. I surely didn't. I thought it originated back in the 60s with the flower children. But I was wrong. The term originated in the 1850s in a religious commune in Oneida, New York. Called the Oneida Community by some and the Oneida Experiment by others, it was an experiment with sexual freedom under religious auspices, and quoting Scripture for its justification.

I'm not sure what sent me looking for this, but I found an article in *Touchstone Magazine* titled, *The Oneida Experiment, What We Have Discovered About Not-So-Free Love*, by Frederica Mathewes-Green. Oneida was founded on the principle of "Bible Communism." Founder John Humphrey Noyes insisted that, under his personally devised philosophy, there were to be no selfish attachments, no hoarding of love.

Initially, it sounds very strange. How can you hoard love? And how can love be a selfish attachment? According to Ms. Green, Noyes had put sexual freedom at the head of his agenda, and he was the inventor of the term "free love."

He had been a Yale Divinity School student and sometime Congregationalist minister. He came to believe that "complex marriage" was God's will, as indicated by the Scripture, "in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like the angels in heaven" (Matthew 22:30).

Now you may be ahead of me on this, but it isn't clear to me how complex marriage can be like angels, who don't marry at all. According to Noyes, "The abolition of sexual exclusiveness is involved in the love-relation required between all believers by the express injunction of Christ and the Apostles. The restoration of true relations between the sexes is a matter second in importance only to the reconciliation of man to God."

### ***Would Your Employer Contribute to CEM? . . .***

He might. . . here's how. It's a well kept secret that many corporations match donations given by employees to nonprofit organizations. Why? It's a tax write off for them. Call CEM for a list of companies that will match your contributions to CEM. If the company you work for is on the list, you may be eligible to participate in their matching gift program. Some will match funds for retirees, spouses, and members of the board of directors as well. Give us a call and find out if your company has this plan in which you can participate, where CEM will benefit as it costs you nothing.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

#### Free Love

from Ronald L. Dart's notes ..... 1

#### Would Your Employer Contribute

to CEM? ..... 1

#### America, America, Wake Up!

By C. Roderick Martin ..... 2

Calendar of Events ..... 4

YEA Feast Books Available Soon .... 4

The best way for me to explain this is with a quotation from Frederica Mathewes-Green's article: "'Sexual freedom' is a term that could suggest a carefree heedlessness that did not obtain at Oneida. A man wishing to enjoy the company of a specific woman would submit his request to an appointed official who kept a ledger of such engagements. This official would then present the request to the woman who was the target of the man's intentions, and she might

*continued on page 3. . .*

## America, America, Wake Up!

By C. Roderick Martin, a CEM Board Member

“Let them bring forth and show us what will happen; Let them show the former things, what they were, so we may consider them, and know the latter end of them” (Isaiah 41:22 NKJV). There is little doubt if we are to know what will happen to this country, we must look to the past, specifically, to ancient Israel.

One may question if we are indeed the direct descendants of the “Lost Ten Tribes,” but there is little debate that we are spiritual Israel. Biblical history gives us detailed accounts, confirmed many times by secular history, of Israel’s fate when the people disobeyed God.

God is predictable, he does not change; he is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. In Deuteronomy 28, known as the “blessings and curses” chapter, God tells Israel, point by point, what they could expect should they not obey Him. Again, in Deuteronomy 8, paraphrasing, God says, “Beware that you do not forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today: lest when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them; and when your herds and flocks multiply, and your silver and gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; Then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God. . . and say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth’ . . . you shall surely perish.”

When the Pilgrims first set foot on Plymouth Rock, they believed this

country was the Promised Land, the new Israel. They began to build a country based upon God’s Laws and raised their children to believe the same ideals. A hundred-plus years later when Thomas Jefferson penned the Declaration of Independence, the country as a whole still believed in those principles. The founding fathers—Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Franklin, and Adams—all believed this country was founded on Judeo-Christian beliefs, and anyone who thinks otherwise, simply has not read, in depth, the history of this country nor read the writings of these men.

Today, the country is divided. This division is the result of two distinct views on two separate issues. First, there are those who believe the country is losing the Judeo-Christian belief system upon which it was founded, and adopt the views of those of a more liberal persuasion, who advocate abortion and homosexuality as acceptable lifestyles. The second major schism is economics, between the Republicans, who believe in a free marketplace without government interference as Hayek advocated, and those who subscribe to Keynesian economics (read *Economics and the World Order Part 1, Living to Win*, January, 2012).

Greed, the love of money, and pride has corrupted our government, leaving in its wake injustice. Huge multinational banks and corporations wield the power. Abraham Lincoln, in a letter to Colonel William Elkins

wrote, “Corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed.” The economic power these corporations possess is staggering. Corporations do not have souls. Their sole purpose is to make money.

We have forgotten God. Hubris is pervasive. We have forgotten that God blesses this country. Our forefathers understood this, but we think, “By our power and the might our hand we have achieved greatness.” The Prophet Hosea in 4:6 states again the consequences of forgetting God: “Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children.” Examine the generation coming of age—frightening. Many of God’s people reside in the “Bible Belt” and as such, they are a God fearing people; but doing business extensively throughout the country, one realizes a large number of Americans simply have no fear of God. It is interesting, geographically, where they reside. I read a statistic recently that said less than 20 percent of the populace attends church on a weekly basis. In England, it is less than 12 percent.

My job requires that I spend much of my time on airplanes crisscrossing the country. I am reminded often of Daniel 12:4: “But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the

*continued on page 4. . .*

*Free Love  
continued from page 1 . . .*

agree or refuse as she chose, though agreement was the general rule. According to the records, most women had two or three visitors per week, and a popular young woman might entertain as many as seven. The purpose of the ledger, however, was not to restrain the free exchange of sexual favors. Nor was it to track the fathers of children born in the community. Such a task would have been nearly impossible in any case, but considering the era and circumstances, astonishingly few children were born. Noyes understood that for a scheme of sexual freedom to succeed and not be overwhelmed by progeny, non-procreative sex must be absolutely required. This was accomplished through Noyes' command that men utilize a primitive method for the prevention of pregnancy. It was effective: Over a 20-year period, only 35 children were born in the community of 100 adults. The purpose of the ledger was not to restrain sexual freedom, but to ensure it, by monitoring whether any couples were becoming overly attached to each other. There was always the terrible danger that a man and woman might fall in love and begin consorting with each other to the exclusion of others. Such incipient selfishness had to be stamped out. Noyes phrased it this way: 'The new commandment is that we love one another. . . not by pairs, as in the world, but en masse.' When a man confessed that he had fallen in love with a woman in the community, Noyes responded sharply, 'You do not love her, you love happiness.'"

As I read more on John Humphrey Noyes, I knew I had to address it, but I was torn. What is the story really about? Is it about sex? About love? About utopianism? And then I came to a paragraph by Lawrence Foster in an article titled, *The Oneida Community Experience and Its Implications for the Present*. The essential principle underlying Noyes' religious approach was what he described as the "anti-legality of the Gospel," or in other terms, the notion that faith has higher priority than works. The article, *Paul Not Carnal*, printed shortly after Noyes' conversion to "perfect holiness" in New Haven in February 1834, conveys this belief, which underlay the rest of his life.

Like Martin Luther, Noyes had driven himself to try to achieve impossible standards of legalistic perfection; and like Luther, Noyes eventually came to the conclusion that the perfection God demanded was based not on external works but on internal attitude. Actions in and of themselves were neither good nor bad, except in terms of what they meant to individuals and to God.

What I found stunning in this statement was that Noyes fled from legalism and proceeded to create a legalism of his own. What could possibly be more legalistic than the dating and sex policies required of members of the commune?

But I think there was more. I think Noyes was afraid of love. Because everyone who has known true love knows one thing above all others. Love is not free. Love will make more demands on you than any force in the world. "Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as

death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot wash it away. If one were to give all the wealth of his house for love, it would be utterly scorned" (Song of Songs 8:6-7 NIV).

Love can finally require the ultimate sacrifice. "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved" (John 3:14-17).

When God took the rib from Adam to make woman, he left a hole in man that only woman can fill. Lawrence Foster: "One of Noyes' most intellectually provocative articles was his 1854 piece on *The Family and its Foil*. In it, he asserted that 'marriage,' in its present form, was antagonistic to the 'family.' By this rather startling statement, he meant that existing patterns of marriage, which grew out of romantic love, frequently separated a couple geographically, emotionally, and

*continued on page 4. . .*

*Christian Educational Ministries*

PO Box 560

Whitehouse, Texas 75791

**phone:** 1-888-BIBLE-44

**fax:** 903.839-9311

**e-mail:** adm@borntowin.net

**website:** www.borntowin.net

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

*Free Love  
continued from page 3. . .*

socially from their ‘family’—that is, their parents and larger kinship and community ties. Such marriages based on romantic love contributed to the fragmentation of social relations. As Noyes saw it, love attachments confined to individuals were a form of ‘egotism for two,’ part of the same disruptive and antisocial individualism that was represented by the spirit of rampant acquisitiveness in antebellum America.”

Wouldn’t you think that a preacher would know better?

Order this most interesting *FREE* CD titled, *Free Love*, and learn what God intended from the beginning. But that’s not all. Learn the truth about what the Oneida Experiment was really about and how God looked upon it.

## YEA Feast Books Available Soon!

Books for children and teens in five age groups, ages three to 20, specially designed to be taught during the Feast of Tabernacles, will soon be available to all Feast sites. You or your church can purchase these exciting and effective lessons that address the issues kids face at each stage of their development. Complete Parents’ and Teachers’ Guides complement the Students’ books and make instilling these vital lessons easy. Watch for further announcements, or call 1-888-BIBLE-44 for more information. Discounts for bulk orders are available.

*America, America, Wake Up!  
continued from page 2. . .*

end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.” The information age has brought everything ever written to devices most carry. With a few keystrokes, we can access books, magazines, articles, law libraries, the Library of Congress, the constitution of Sweden—the knowledge is endless. If one travels as I do, and spends much time in airports from coast to coast, one can easily attest to “running to and fro.” However, one does not have to travel by airplane to make the same observation. All know we live in a dangerous world.

Because we are protected by oceans, many people mistakenly believe we are insulated from wars in foreign lands. The United Nations will prevent another World War. After all, we are a civilized people. There is nothing civilized about war. Ask anyone who has seen war up-front and close. The horror one human being can inflict upon another has not changed in 3,000 years.

Reread the Minor Prophets. Ron Dart has developed extensive material (his CD series, *The Minor Prophets*) on the Minor Prophets, as well as a series that focuses on the message of Jeremiah called *Real Prophets*. They are most enjoyable and enlightening. It would behoove you to listen to these series. God calls us a stiff-necked people. We are rebellious, prideful. We learn nothing from the stories of ancient Israel or we do not believe them. As the philosopher Santayana once said, “Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it.” We have “crossed the Rubicon.”

## Calendar of Events

**Feast of Tabernacles, Sept. 30 to Oct. 8, 2012** at the Emerald Coast Conference Center in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida. We’re pulling out all the stops to add spiritual depth, excitement, and fun, with the theme, *Keep the Feast in Old Jerusalem*. The stage will be set with visuals, costumes, a market, and learning center to help young and old alike grasp what it was like when Jesus walked the streets of Jerusalem during the Feast. Add to this all your favorite things CEM does so well—great sermons, YEA classes and seminars, adult seminars, and fun activities: Family Picnic, Pie and Ice Cream Social, dances, Fun Show, beach party, and more. CEM invites children and teens attending the Feast who play a band instrument to contact us. We have music for a special song you can learn to present on Youth Day during the Feast. We will need many volunteers to help with all of these activities and events. Gain the rewards of helping by calling Paula Hughes toll free at 1-888-BIBLE-44 to contribute your time and talents, both before and during the Feast. Join the CEM Feast of Tabernacles Facebook page to keep up with the latest, and exchange ideas and information about the Feast. Visit [www.borntowin.net](http://www.borntowin.net) for updates to the schedule of events and activities as they become available.

## Please Notice:

For your convenience, an envelope is enclosed for your Pentecost Holy Day offering (Deuteronomy 16:16-17).