

Christian Persecution

From Ronald L. Dart's Program Notes

A new play opened in one of the most important off-Broadway theaters in Manhattan. In this play, Jesus was portrayed as a homosexual with a traveling harem of 12 gay men. Gene Veith, writing in *World Magazine*, concluded that America's cultural elite has no idea of how monstrously offensive this portrayal of Jesus is to Christians.

I think he is wrong. I think the cultural elite know very well how offensive it is. *World Magazine* reported that the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights began to organize public protests, and condemned the play as anti-Christian bigotry—which it is. They warned that if the play were shown that they would wage a war that no one would forget. The theater club had threats ranging from death to burning the theater down. No, I think they know quite well how monstrous it is to Christians—I think it was a calculated insult, or revenge.

The Bible is quite clear that sex acts between people of the same gender is sin. This is not complicated theology. "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination. Neither shalt thou lie with any beast

to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it is confusion. Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you" (Leviticus 18:22-24).

The Bible plainly says that homosexual behavior is a sin, and some homosexuals have never forgiven the Bible for that. No one should really be surprised at the frequent artistic insults directed at Christians and their traditions by homosexual artists. But let's not suggest that they have no idea that we are offended. Offending us is entirely the point.

Someone ought to point out,

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however, that vengeance is sometimes cowardly. The Manhattan Theater of the Arts will not be putting on a show that is blasphemous to Muslims. Salmon

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Why Don't People Give to God? . . .

Since God gives us everything we have, what is it that keeps us from returning to him what is his? Oh, there are as many excuses as there are fleas on a dog. But do they hold water? Do they return what you want in life? What should be our attitude towards giving? The Bible says, "He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." This is a law of nature. It is a Law of God (2 Corinthians 9:6). But it's the attitude toward giving that counts. "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, nor of necessity, but God loves a cheerful giver." Giving is a blessing. It's an opportunity. It's an obligation. It's God's way. Now let's follow God even with our pocketbooks. You'll be glad you did.

The YEA Advantage

By Allie Dart

When CEM was initially started, we added to our Constitution and By-Laws that our goal was to create and publish literature to teach our youth the Word of God—our beliefs and traditions. Previously, no one in our tradition had put forth the effort and expense to compile a curriculum for our little tots and big kids. It seemed to be the norm to think that when a child had his 12th birthday, there was no need for a teenager to attend Sabbath School classes—that summer camp and youth activities were strictly to entertain our kids without teaching and indoctrinating them in the way of God.

I've simply never understood that way of thinking. My mother died at 76 and probably attended Sunday School the Sunday before she died. For Protestants, Sunday School is from the cradle to the grave. They would never think of stopping at age 12. We like to think we're more righteous than Protestants, but somehow, our Protestant friends manage to keep a higher percentage of their kids in their faith than we do. How hard is it to find just one 12-year old child in our tradition who really knows the Bible—can explain why we keep the Sabbath on Saturday instead of Sunday and why we celebrate God's holy days, or even name all of them. Frankly, we've failed and it has been the intent of Christian Educational Ministries to make a paradigm shift in our focus and to begin seriously to teach our

children in a way to bring them to Christ. Isn't it time to look at the fruits of what we've been doing, reevaluate, and make the necessary changes to please God with the way we teach our children and teens?

When the hormones start raging, kids need spiritual reminders as never before to see them through that period of time. Our kids are constantly barraged with peer pressures. The church and home are the two places where kids should be able to turn for support and answers. Our teens need a constant reminder that doing the right thing produces the right results. Kids need the Word of God indelibly printed in their minds and hearts—so they will not sin against God Almighty. Too often sins of youth are very costly and leave irremovable scars.

As CEM prayerfully laid out its curriculum, we felt God led us to make the first year's curriculum for all five age groups the Life of Christ. The second year we designed a curriculum to teach creation, Noah and the flood, Abraham and his family, and the Exodus. This brought us to Mount Sinai where God gave Israel his Law that, if kept, would make children and teenager's lives work. We stated as our goal to not only help each child become biblically literate but to come to repentance and baptism as early as maturity would allow, then become leaders in the Church of God.

From there we continued chronologically to help students grasp the story flow of the Bible. So the next 40 lessons were based on the great heroes of the Bible. Since the younger three age groups are in their classes for three years and the two teen groups for four years, to provide lessons for 17 years of a child's life, there needed to be another year's curriculum for the teenagers. So the Wisdom Series lessons were written for both teen age groups. These lessons are drafted to turn our teens into leaders—leaders in their community and leaders in church.

Before YEA started laying out this program, I gathered all the materials I could locate from our tradition to see what had been done. Frankly there was very little in print and much didn't utilize teaching methods that would convey the Word of God to children and teens in a way that would lead them to Christ. So I visited local churches and pastors and picked up every Sunday School book I could find. I wasn't looking for their doctrines, but for their methodology. Why were they more successful in keeping their children in their church than we had been, especially since God had shared his truths with us?

I visited Christian bookstores and purchased every teaching aid I could find—always asking what they were doing that was keeping their kids in their faith. One profound thing I found was that you can lecture a kid right out of your class—and kids consider more than seven consecutive sentences to be a lecture.

Children and teens need action! From the time the child enters the

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2012 Feast of Tabernacles

Sermon Schedule

All Services will be held in the Emerald Ballroom 1 of the Emerald Coast Convention Center

Date	Time	Speaker
Sunday, September 30	7:30 p.m.	Richard Crow
Monday, October 1	11:00 a.m.*	Mardy Cobb
Tuesday, October 2	11:00 a.m.	Richard Crow
Wednesday, October 3	11:00 a.m.	Dave Havir
Thursday, October 4	11:00 a.m.	Patrick Hinds
Friday, October 5	11:00 a.m.	Jim O'Brien
Saturday, October 6	11:00 a.m.	Ken Svehla
Sunday, October 7	11:00 a.m.**	Youth Day
Monday, October 8	11:00 a.m.	Hugh Buchanan

* A Holy Day offering will be taken

** Youth Day 2012

Seminar Schedule

(subject to change)

All seminars start at 9:30 a.m. and are held in Emerald Ballroom 2 or 3, Palm 1, or Palm 2 of the Emerald Coast Convention Center. Christian Educational Ministries is pleased to present a full schedule of seminars with many opportunities to learn and enjoy. Join us and partake of this wonderful feast of presentations.

Tuesday, October 2, 9:30 a.m.

Debbie King - *Being Prepared in an Unprepared World*. We've seen the calamities in our country and around the world. How should we as Christians prepare for these things? Learn about the ways we can prepare and what the Bible says about preparing.

Mardy Cobb - *True Religion in Kenya Africa*.

Scarlett Stough - *Wise Up and Live*. A guided interactive discussion on 12 attitudes and actions we need to grow in godly wisdom.

Wednesday, October 3, 9:30 a.m.

Phil McCollum - *Nehemiah's Message to You (Part 1)*. The Book of Nehemiah is often overlooked, but in its 13 chapters are over 100 life lessons that are still applicable to our modern lives. Come see what God has to say to you from the pages of this most remarkable book.

Pam Dewey - *Pioneers of a New Frontier*. The *Star Trek* TV series introduced in 1966 implied that the "final frontier" was space. The successful manned moon landing of 1969 certainly seemed to validate that assumption. Man seemed poised to launch the very next generation into pioneering colonies on the moon and maybe Mars, and sending manned missions out beyond. None of that ever panned out as expected. Space didn't become colonized with pioneers. In fact, this year NASA even abandoned its space shuttle program. At the same time in the late 1960s, many in religious circles expected that Jesus was going to return at any time, and that the New Frontier they could be a part of as pioneers was going to be the Millennium on Earth within a very few years. That never panned out as expected, either! This seminar will answer the question: Is the age of pioneers over—or is it possible that you could be one of the "Pioneers of a New Frontier?"

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*Seminar Schedule
continued from page 3. . .*

Wednesday, October 3, 9:30 a.m. (continued)

Matt and Tami Hees - *Tools for Building Accountable Relationships*. How can we accomplish this? “That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children. . . . Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity . . .” (Titus 2:4-7). Isn’t this mentoring? We’ve learned the value of having others to whom we are accountable for our marriage and been given tools that have enriched our relationship---tools that apply to all of our relationships. You will see what modeling accountability looks like.

Thursday, October 4, 9:30 a.m.

Michael and Erika Deering - *Lost Among the Least, part 1, A Difficult Field of Harvest*. Three millennia of paganism has kept India an almost unsown field for Christ. Doors have opened in a large way for the true Gospel to go forward, but challenges and obstacles lay at every step. Discover how God is calling Sabbatarian brethren and churches to minister to His people in India and why Michael was willing to live among them in the slums for the first half of this year.

Trisha Svehla - *He Said—She Said*. Understanding the differences in communications styles between men and women.

Phil McCollum - *Nehemiah’s Message to You (Part 2)*. Perhaps the strongest lessons that Nehemiah has to teach our modern world come at the end of this amazing story. Come and explore the treasure that God has buried in these final chapters that can bring revival to our nations, our churches, our families, and our own lives.

Friday, October 5, 9:30 a.m.

Michael and Erika Deering - *Lost Among the Least, part 2, Enduring Persecution*. During his multi-month stay in the slums of Rajupalem, Michael learns the high price of being a Christian in India. Institutionalized persecution is a way of life, and Michael talks about its insidious practice in India and shows where it leads, prompting serious questions of his own Christianity and ability to endure with his faith intact. This session will contain video and descriptions of abuse and brutality of Christians that some may find very upsetting.

Rod Martin

Phil McCollum - *The Heart of Jesus in Nehemiah (Part 3)*. In many ways Nehemiah exemplified the life of a true follower of Christ. His story is one of devotion and obedience to God, and of immense sacrificial love. Learn how Nehemiah’s actions and passions reflected the heart of Jesus, and in the process discover how we can become more like our Savior.

Saturday, October 6, 9:30 a.m.

Michael and Erika Deering - *Lost Among the Least, part 3, They Never Heard of Jesus---Until Now*. Uplifting, encouraging and amazing testimony of four months living with the poorest brethren. Video and slideshow of how the Gospel is preached in India and the impact brethren in the US are having on proclaiming the Gospel to a desperate people, including CEM's own contribution. Ericka shares testimony of Mission India's service and impact for both the brethren and those called to serve them. Q&A follows.

Sunday, October 7, 9:30 a.m.

Pam Dewey - *Travel Kit for Pioneers of the New Frontier*. The Feast of Tabernacles reminds us that we are currently “living in temporary dwellings” in which we move from place to place . . . sort of like a spiritual RV! If you’ve taken many long-distance trips, you know how important it can be to be properly equipped for travel. You need a travel kit of safety equipment, comfort items, convenience items, and emergency supplies. If you are willing to be a pioneer in God’s New Frontier, you’ll need a spiritual travel kit. This seminar will remind you of some important items to include in your own personal kit bag.

Hugh Buchanan - *Powers of Ten, the Size of the Universe*. An exploration of the relative size of things in the universe.

Scarlett Stough - *You’ve Got Mail - Philippians and Rejoicing*. Seminar on the letter to the church at Philippi with an emphasis on rejoicing.

YEA Feast Classes That Rock!

Put a bunch of fun in the Feast for kids three to 20 with well-planned, action-packed daily classes and seminars, beginning Tuesday, October 2 through Sunday, October 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (no classes on the Sabbath and high holy days). A dedicated group of volunteer teachers is ready to inspire kids of all ages with fun lessons about the awesomeness of God's Feast, how kids fit into God's plan, and what kids can do to make this their best Feast ever! For five days there will be untamed excitement that will make Bible lessons long remembered. Music practice immediately follows classes for 15 minutes. Kids and/or parents should register Sunday night, September 30, beginning at 6:30 p.m. or Monday morning between 10 and 10:45 a.m. *FREE* YEA full-color books will be provided to each student.

Themes and lesson titles are listed below:

Beginners (Ages 3 through 5)

Theme: ***Tales from the Kingdom***

- Lesson 1: Feast for a King
- Lesson 2: God Tells the King "No!"
- Lesson 3: God's New House
- Lesson 4: Josiah the Child King
- Lesson 5: Crown Her Queen Esther

Juniors (Ages 9 through 11)

Theme: ***Exploring God's World***

- Lesson 1: Anyone Camping?
- Lesson 2: An Awesome Prayer
- Lesson 3: Bible Heroes
- Lesson 4: Equipped With Love
- Lesson 5: Faithful Friends

Primaries (Ages 6 through 8)

Theme: ***Going Places***

- Lesson 1: You Are Tabernacling!
- Lesson 2: What Would Jesus Do?
- Lesson 3: A Good Example
- Lesson 4: Giving is Good
- Lesson 5: Jesus Was a Child, Too!

Intermediates (Ages 12 through 15)

Theme: ***A Higher Calling***

- Lesson 1: Text "Celebrate!"
- Lesson 2: Text "Smart Love"
- Lesson 3: Text "Just Say No!"
- Lesson 4: Text "Caught in the Act"
- Lesson 5: Text "Super Hero"

Senior Teens (Ages 16 through 19)

Theme: ***You Have A True Friend Request***

- Seminar 1: Your Awesome Future
- Seminar 2: Friendships, Not Cliques
- Seminar 3: Join the Leaders
- Seminar 4: Peer Power
- Seminar 5: Win Your Crown!

Youth Day

October 7, 2012

Theme: *Jesus Kept the Feast*, 11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Activities for All Ages

The Feast is a time for great rejoicing. Whether young or old, we have something for *you*. Every activity is planned to give a joyful atmosphere. Many opportunities are available for fellowship. **Please check the Activity Table for complete details of every activity and join in the fun!**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Reception for Ronald Dart 6:30 p.m., Emerald Ballroom 2. Enjoy finger foods and visit personally with Ron and Allie Dart.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1

YEA Orientation Meeting 1:00 p.m., Emerald Ballroom 2. All teaching staff are required to attend.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2

Churches of God Family Picnic 2:00 p.m., Clement Taylor Park. Games, pinata, and fellowship.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3

Senior Luncheon 1:00 p.m., Restaurant to be announced.

Dance Through the Ages 5:30 p.m., Emerald Ballroom 2. Starts with ballroom, swing, rumba, 20s - 70s. 7:00 p.m. variety dance music. 8:30 p.m. Danceclub. contemporary "dance club" music.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4

Golf Scramble 2:00 p.m. Tee time, country club to be announced.

Praise & Worship Event 7:30 p.m., Emerald Ballroom 1.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5

Festival Association Meeting 1:00 p.m., Emerald Ballroom 1. Members of Festival Association are required to attend. Anyone interested in becoming part of the

FA is encouraged to come.

Churches of God Pie and Ice Cream Social 7:00 p.m., Emerald Ballroom 2.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

Youth Day Practice 1:00 p.m., Emerald Ballroom 1. All Youth Day participants must be present. All YEA choir members should be present for choir rehearsal. Younger children should be accompanied by parent. Lunch provided by CEM in Emerald Ballroom 2 for participants and staff.

Fun Show Practice 4:30 p.m., Emerald Ballroom 1.

Fun Show 7:00 p.m., Emerald Ballroom 1.

Keep the Feast in Old Time Jerusalem

As you go back in time to the streets of Old Jerusalem, try to visualize what it might have been like when Jesus of Nazareth celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles in the Holy City. While you are there, visit the bakery and sample Middle Eastern goodies. See the wares at the marketplace. Learn how precious purple dye was made in ancient times when you meet Lydia, a seller of purple. Sit in the sukkah. Watch a real YEA class in action in the Learning Center, or view scenes from modern Jerusalem in the slide show. Listen to the splash of the Fountain of Living Waters, and have your picture made with the cute animals in the corral. Learn about some of the gates of ancient Jerusalem and see a model of the Tabernacle. The time schedule below will help you plan your trip to *Old Time Jerusalem*. Times when cast members are present are the best times to experience the full exhibit. At those times, free samples of foods are available. Children and teens can make purchases, except on the Holy Days and Sabbath.

Sunday, September 30	6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. with live cast
Monday, October 1**	9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. with live cast 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. no cast
Tuesday, October 2	9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. no cast*
Wednesday, October 3	9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. with live cast* 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. with live cast
Thursday, October 4	9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. with live cast* 6:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. with live cast
Friday, October 5	9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. no cast* 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. no cast 6:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. with live cast
Saturday, October 6**	9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. with live cast 6:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. no cast
Sunday, October 7	9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. with live cast*
Monday, October 8**	9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. no cast

* YEA class in the Learning Center

** Holy Day or Sabbath

*Christian Persecution
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Rushdie wrote a novel in which he suggested that Mohammed's wives were unfaithful and got the death penalty pronounced on his head by an Ayatollah. There will be no plays produced in New York that are grossly offensive to Muslims. If you are going to pick on someone, it is usually best to pick on someone who will turn the other cheek. They are doing it to Christians because they hate what we stand for and because *we are vulnerable*. What else is new?

But there is an even darker side to all this. Religious persecution does not start with rocks being thrown through your windows. It doesn't begin with you and your family loaded on a train with others of like faith and being carted off to concentration camps. It begins with the demeaning of your religion and culture. It proceeds from demeaning to demonizing and dehumanizing. Only then does it come down to boxcars and crematoriums. We enjoy certain protections for now, but will we always? You desperately need to hear this *Born to Win* broadcast titled *Christian Persecution* to ensure you are aware of what can happen to you. To request a *FREE* CD of *Christian Persecution*, just check the enclosed card and return it today!



*The YEA Advantage
continued from page 2. . .*

classroom until the closing prayer, there should be action, action, action! This is done by interactive forms of teaching with student participation. Good learning areas may even be a little noisy. But one thing for sure is you do not want a classroom so quiet that you can hear a needle drop. Nor do you want a classroom where students are unwilling to participate. Kids need to think, analyze, and discover God's truths for themselves. Students are much more likely to accept a truth they discover for themselves than one a teacher or parent passes on to them. That is the way every YEA lesson is written.

Now I was ready to lay out a curriculum. Since God's appointed times—the Holy Days of the Bible—are central to our beliefs, they had to be central to the YEA program. We couldn't go to Group, Gospel Light, Life Way and other Protestant groups and use their books. We knew well that we wouldn't find lessons in Protestant materials on keeping the Passover, the Day of Pentecost, the Feast of Trumpets, nor the Feast of Tabernacles. We could learn their methodology and use it, but those publishing houses simply don't understand the Holy Days of the Bible and teachers would have to rework lessons to use their Sunday School and Vacation Bible School books (Vacation Bible School kits aren't designed for Feast classes. They are designed to be taught in a local church to build that church.) Those organizations simply don't understand many teachings of the

Bible that we want to pass on to our kids and ensure they retain them.

So we set out to do something no one in our tradition had ever successfully done—that is to write a full curriculum of lessons to teach our beliefs and doctrines to our children and teenagers. This would be a massive job to write 50 different lessons for five age groups for 17 years, never duplicating a lesson—subjects yes, but at a different age level. This is something that not even other organizations in our tradition have been willing to try. CEM and YEA are unique in that we've been willing to invest the time and money so that our kids can have YEA lessons that teach God's truths. So churches and children who use the YEA curriculum never repeat a lesson in the 17 years that a child is in the YEA classes.

After years of research and hard work, we have almost 900 different lessons in print in full-color books. So let me reiterate *the YEA Advantage* so you will understand well why you, your church, and your Feast site should get and use the YEA Feast books:

- 1) You can count on the YEA books being biblically accurate and won't have to be rewritten to fit our doctrines and traditions;
- 2) Each child is to have their own YEA full-color Feast book to prepare for each class and keep as a souvenir;
- 3) Each YEA book has its own full-color Parent's and Teacher's Guide to make teacher preparation effective and easy—the guide tells you how to teach each class, gives you review questions, provides activities to drive

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*The YEA Advantage
continued from page 7. . .*

home the lesson and make it memorable, and even gives Scriptures, memory verse, and an appropriate song to sing; 4) It clearly lays out how to make each lesson fun and memorable; 5) It saves the teacher hours of time in preparation; 6) The YEA lessons are designed to bring your students to Christ and to baptism; 7) YEA lessons are designed to be exciting, fun, and enjoyable. YEA lessons will draw kids of all ages (three to 20) to your Feast site and make the Church of God doctrines clear, understandable, and fun; 8) YEA lessons are age appropriate.

There may be a time to purchase and use Vacation Bible School kits, but they are not designed to be used as Feast lessons—YEA Feast books are—they fit like hand in glove and you'll be glad you ordered them. We challenge you to try the YEA lessons and let us know how well they worked.

Short Takes

Uppermost in the minds of our readers and listeners is the question of how Ron Dart is doing—how is he progressing in his recovery. All of us look forward eagerly to the time when he can once again teach and preach with the depth and insight that we all enjoy so much. There is much that Ron can communicate right now, if we but take the time to listen. More and more, as he listens to his own broadcasts, watches the news, or attends a church service, he'll make a comment. We've decided to collect a few of his comments to share with you each month in this column.

Recently, speaking of Christian Educational Ministries as an organization, Mr. Dart noted, "We are not a church. The distinction is important. Think about the implications. What are they? A lot of the things that churchse do, we don't have to worry about."

Calendar of Events

Feast of Tabernacles 2012—September 30 to October 8, 2012.

Emerald Coast Conference Center, Ft. Walton Beach, Florida. You are specially invited to a reception for Ron Dart on Sunday, September 30 at 6:30 p.m. at the ECCC. Experience added spiritual depth, excitement, and fun with the theme, *Keep the Feast in Old Time Jerusalem* at the Feast of Tabernacles this year. We'll set the stage with visuals, costumes, a market, and learning center to help young and old alike to grasp what it was like when Jesus walked the streets of Jerusalem during the Feast. You'll find all your favorite things CEM does so well—great sermons, inspiring special music, YEA classes and seminars, adult seminars, and fun activities: Family Picnic, Pie and Ice Cream Social, Dances, Fun Show, and more. Many volunteers are still needed to help with special music, activities and events. Gain the rewards of helping. Call Paula Hughes toll free at 1-888-BIBLE-44 to contribute your time and talents, both before the Feast and during. Join the CEM Feast of Tabernacles Facebook group to keep up with the latest, and exchange ideas and information about the Feast. Visit www.borntowin.net to see updates to everything that's planned.

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

A Holy Day Offering envelope is enclosed for your convenience.