

Born to Win

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Personal from. . .

Ronald L. Dart

Dear Friends:

The question on the outside of the envelope probably sounds stupid: "Should we take God seriously?" And yet, from where I sit the entire community of Christ takes God casually, not seriously. How can I say this? By looking at the way we live our lives. Jesus said, "Judge not that you be not judged, for with what measure you judge you shall be judged." Do people take Him seriously? Do you? If we are honest with ourselves, we will have to admit that we know very few people who take Him seriously. Judging one another seems to be the favorite indoor sport of far too many Christian people.

Paul wrote: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting" (Galatians 6:7-8). How about it, do we take Paul seriously? Then how come we are sowing so much to the flesh and so little to the Spirit?

I know, it is awfully difficult not to let down. And yet, if we don't maintain a level of vigilance, where are we going to be when the cry comes out "rise up and go to meet Him."

It is truly hard to maintain a high state of alert. It was painfully evident in the weeks after 9/11 that the

people of this country wanted the government on high alert, but it was just as evident that we couldn't possibly stay on that level of alert for the rest of our lives. Anyone who travels these days knows that the security at airports, tight as it is, is not tight enough to protect us with certainty. Absolute security is an impossible task. The danger is that we will grow weary of such expense and inconvenience and give it up.

What we need today is a state of readiness that we can maintain indefinitely. It will fall far short of absolute safety. Some of us will get hurt because there is no way it can be avoided. But if we try too hard for too long and then let down, the results could be even more disastrous.

There is a powerful analogy between our readiness in the war on terror and the state of readiness in the Christian community in the world today. So many false prophets have set dates in the past, so many have cried "wolf," that the entire Christian community is in a state of apathy that is very hard to overcome. And yet, the Bible is shot through with warnings about the dangers we face.

Jesus said that He would come again. Do we take Him seriously? Jesus said that we should watch and pray that we not be caught unaware. Do we take Him seriously? Jesus

said that the man who heard His words and didn't do them would be like the man who built his house on the sand. Do we take Him seriously?

Frankly, if the Christian community doesn't start taking Christ seriously, He will come on us "in a day when we aren't looking for Him and in an hour that we think not." He will, in His own words, cut us apart and appoint us our portion with the hypocrites. Maybe it's time we think about taking Christ seriously.

Not long ago I did a Bible study on this theme titled, "Taking God Seriously," and it is available on cassette tape. If you would like a *free* copy of the sermon, just check the box on the enclosed envelope. As always, the tape is free and there is no obligation to give. But if you can help, it will be greatly appreciated.

Keep on in His service,

Ronald L. Dart

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Commit to Building a Church

The network has been publishing articles submitted from different churches showing things they feel work for them and have added to their church's growth. Lenny Cacchio has written the article below. He attends an *independent* church in Kansas City. The Church of God Kansas City started out by sponsoring the weekly *Born to Win* broadcast in February, 1999. Recently this church has begun sponsoring a daily *Born to Win* program. It can be heard on KCNW, which is 1380 on the A.M. dial, at 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. As a result of this program being aired in the Kansas City area, new people are beginning to attend the Church of God Kansas City.

July will mark the fifth anniversary of our congregation, which goes by the name of Church of God Kansas City. Five years for some reason seems like a long time for an unaffiliated Church of God to be in existence. But contrary to the prophecies of the day, we're still together and the 40 regulars of five years ago now number 60. And all this with no formal minister or pastor, and with a strictly congregational form of governance!

There are no secrets to our growth. The biggest thing was commitment on the part of the forming members, which implied a commitment to work through the inevitable problems that we knew would arise. As in any marriage, even so much as a mention of the word divorce was unacceptable. We were tired of church splits and politics, and we

were determined to have a peaceful place to meet on the Sabbath. The following are things the Church of God Kansas City is doing:

- ◆ Forgetting those things which are behind. The Apostle Paul wrote these words to the Church at Philippi, and they apply to us as well.
- ◆ Quench not the Spirit. Early on we all took a "spiritual gifts inventory." While the accuracy of such "inventories" are questionable, the concept is a good one. We have felt that no one has a right to restrict anyone else in the use of their spiritual gifts. If someone has a passion to do something, then the rest of the congregation has an obligation to encourage that person. Everyone has been allowed freedom of conscience, freedom to

pursue their dreams, and freedom to utilize their gifts, talents, and abilities.

- ◆ Is Christ divided? We have steadfastly held to our unaffiliated status, and this is incorporated into our bylaws. While we respect the work being done by many Church of God ministries and have invited several to speak to us, we are unaffiliated and will remain so. Most of our people have one or another favorite preacher, but none is our official or unofficial guru. By having a big tent, more are made to feel at home.
- ◆ We have a real church service. We never play tapes in lieu of a sermon. We always have live speakers and encourage our speakers to utilize their gifts. We

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Calendar Of Events

May 19th - Terrell, Texas **Pentecost Services**

Ronald L. Dart will be conducting services for the Feast of Pentecost, Sunday, May 19th, in Terrell, Texas. The meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the United Methodist Church, 503 W. College. Services begin at 2:00 pm, followed by a potluck meal. For more information call Ralph Collins at (817) 246-1874 or Faye Brown at 1-888-BIBLE-44.

June 15th - Roanoke, Virginia **Meet the Teacher**

Ronald L. Dart will host a Meet the Teacher session on Saturday, June 15th, in Roanoke at the Conference Theater in the Wyndham Hotel, 2801 Hershberger Road. The meeting will begin at 2:00 pm. Contact Gregg Freeman at (540) 483-7285 or e-mail gmf@kimbanet.com for more information.

7 surprising ways that will Make *your* kids want to learn the Bible!

Why have many church organizations lost up to 90 percent of their young people? Is it that God has not called your children? Or have we neglected to really do what it takes to ensure our kids remain in the faith?

Would spending one thousand years in the Kingdom without your own offsprings really be all that you have dreamed it would be? It's a parent's dream for their children to *want to learn* the Bible and follow God. You want your kids to be moral, God-fearing youngsters who keep the commandments. You don't want your kids *left behind*—you want them to make it into the Kingdom with you. What do you have to do *different* from what has been done in the past to ensure your whole family will be in the first resurrection?

Youth Educational Adventures (YEA) has the answer! There are seven things we do that you're not likely to find in any other Sabbath School materials in our tradition. Carefully read these seven things and see if the materials you're using stand the test. If not, isn't it time for you to start teaching your kids from the YEA books?

◆ YEA provides a systematic curriculum for children to learn the Bible rather than teaching isolated unrelated Bible stories. We start with the Life of Christ and show each young person how to know God, to love Jesus Christ and accept Him as their Savior. Every child is taken sequentially through 40 lessons in this series. Then they are taken to the very beginning and learn how God created all things through Jesus Christ. Among other things, your child will discover why God had to destroy the earth with Noah's flood and the promise He gave to never do that again. They will

be intrigued with such Old Testament dramas as Abraham going up the mountain to offer his own son as a sacrifice. The third year each age group will have a lesson on each of the Ten Commandments as the story flow of the Bible is understood and continued in context.

◆ YEA lessons are age appropriate and challenging for every learner. We provide lessons for five different age groups beginning with age three and continuing until the teen has his 20th birthday.

◆ YEA lessons address the issues kids face at each stage of their development. Kids want lessons that are honest and relevant. So much of the learning material for our youth has been "too big for their britches." It deals with doctrinal issues and lofty concepts that kids simply don't relate to. To understand exactly how our kids' view of life differs from our own, we've done a lot of research and surveys. We've discovered differences in attitudes and perceptions that have kept most religious materials from meeting their needs.

◆ YEA books are full color. "Young learners retain the message an incredible 40% better if it's presented in color!" According to *Woman's World*, April 30, 2002. We know of no other Sabbath School literature in our tradition where you can find *full color materials*.

◆ YEA lessons find practical

life applications for the truths of the Bible. Kids need action. They need to think. And they need to talk. Studies show that teens think they're being lectured after a teacher speaks seven sentences. YEA involves the students in the learning process through active forms of learning. Research has shown that lessons aren't really learned until they have been acted out in one form or another. This step is necessary for students to remember the lesson.

◆ YEA lessons teach the holy days every year in a context of a joyous celebration to be anticipated. Your kids need to understand why they celebrate the days they do and don't keep the days many of their friends keep. But more than that, they need to learn to love these special days and look forward to them. Lessons are also included in each year's Festival Supplement on the nonobservance of Easter, Halloween and Christmas to help your kids graciously deal with these occasions.

◆ YEA lessons lead your kids to discover that sin has consequences and *obedience pays big benefits*.

More and more parents and churches are learning that the YEA lessons are revolutionizing teaching the Bible. At last, there is a curriculum available that makes kids *want to learn* the Bible. They are saying with six year old Ali, "I love my YEA lessons." To order YEA lessons for your children simply call 1-888-BIBLE 44 *today* and we'll rush you a *FREE* YEA catalog!

Daily Radio

The *Born to Win* broadcast can be heard daily on these stations:

- Huntsville, Alabama**
3:30 p.m. daily - WBXR 1140 AM
- Montgomery, Alabama**
8:30 a.m. daily - WAPZ 1250 AM
- Jonesboro, Arkansas**
6:30 p.m. daily - KBTM 1230 AM
- Little Rock, Arkansas**
5:30 p.m. daily - KAAV 1090 AM
- Oakdale, California**
1:00 p.m. daily - KCBC 770 AM
- Denver, Colorado**
5:00 a.m. daily - KLT 670 AM
- Pensacola, Florida**
7:00 a.m. daily - WASG 550 AM
7:00 a.m. daily - WZNO 1230 AM
- Atlanta, Georgia**
10:30 a.m. daily - WGKA 1190 AM
- Augusta, Georgia**
5:30 p.m. & 10:45 p.m. daily
WFAM 1050 AM
- Morrow, Georgia**
7:30 a.m. & 7 p.m. daily
WSSA 1570 AM
- Kansas City, Kansas**
4:00 p.m. daily - KCNW 1380 AM
- Richmond, Kentucky**
12:30 p.m. daily - WCBR 1110 AM
- Gretna, Louisiana**
4:30 a.m. daily - WLNO 1060 AM
- Denton, Maryland**
8:30 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. daily
WKDI 840 AM
- Jackson, Mississippi**
7:00 a.m. daily - WTWZ 1120 AM
- Omaha, Nebraska**
3:30 p.m. daily - KLNG 1560 AM
- Buffalo, New York**
4:30 a.m. daily - WDCX 99.5 FM
- Asheville, North Carolina**
4:00 p.m. daily - WSKY 1230 AM
- Mount Olive, North Carolina**
11:00 a.m. daily - WDJS 1430 AM
- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**
4:30 p.m. daily - WWNL 1080 AM
- Anderson, South Carolina**
9:00 a.m. daily - WRIX 1020 AM
- Charleston, South Carolina**
4:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. daily
WZJY 1480 AM
- Greenville, South Carolina**
4:30 p.m. daily - WELP 1360 AM
- Chattanooga, Tennessee**
5:00 p.m. daily - WLMR 1450 AM
- Knoxville, Tennessee**
5:00 p.m. daily - WITA 1490 AM

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purchased a new hymnal at the local Bible bookstore that has a wide variety of music, everything from classics to country to contemporary – songs that are inspiring to sing. Once a month we have an hour-long hymn singing service in addition to our preaching service. Someone walking in off the street (which has happened) would see a real church in action.

We have felt that each congregation in a sense needs to find its own way. But regardless of individual circumstances, we must learn to trust the leading of the Holy Spirit in such matters. Remember whom it is we serve and the reason we form congregations in the first place.

Daily Radio

The *Born to Win* broadcast can be heard daily on these stations:

- Dallas, Texas**
10:30 a.m. daily - KSKY 660 AM
- Jacksonville, Texas**
5:30 p.m. daily - KLJT 102.3 FM
- Ephrata, Washington**
6:00 a.m. Monday - Saturday
KTRW 970 AM
- The following stations
broadcast daily at 2:30 p.m.**
- Ephrata, Washington**
KTAC 93.9 FM
- Moses Lake, Washington**
KGER 95.9 FM
- Pasco, Washington**
KGDN 101.3 FM
- Spokane, Washington**
KSPO 106.5 FM
- Wenatchee, Washington**
KTBI 810 AM
- Yakima, Washington**
KYAK 930 AM



**Tune in for the latest
weekly broadcast.**

May 11 - May 17
A Mother to Remember

May 18 - May 24
Christian Origins 53

May 25 - May 31
The Class That Never Was

June 1 - June 7
Christian Origins 54

June 8 - June 14
Christian Origins 55

Christian Educational Ministries



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