

Christian Educational Ministries 20th Anniversary

By Allie Dart

November 1995, Ronald Dart was faced with a challenge—what was God leading him to do? Ron had a real estate license and with my sales record the two of us could start our own company and do very well financially. Much prayer showed us that was not what God had in mind.

Mr. Dart observed that there were plenty of Churches of God for people to attend. He felt a service ministry to serve God's people, Churches of God, and Christians of every stripe, was needed. He's good at thinking outside the box. As he said, the Southern Baptists have the Southern Baptist Convention. Life Way Book Store is part of that. It stocks books, literature, materials, and supplies for Sunday school, ministers, Vacation Bible School, and Christians in general. That pattern seemed to be one he considered when starting Christian Educational Ministries. Pastors and Christians from every denomination shop at Life Way for their spiritual needs. A service organization seemed to fill a gap and fit the needs of the Churches of God.

Christian Educational Ministries was founded November 28, 1995 as an independent, nondenominational ministry to serve the public, individual Christians of every stripe, and community-based churches in every tradition. Our mission is fourfold:

- To share the Gospel with the world, to evangelize, to make disciples for Jesus Christ.
- To teach those who are disciples of Jesus all that he commanded his disciples to do (Matthew 28:19-20).
- To share with this generation the words of the prophets and how these words were written to and apply to people today.
- To teach and train the next generation to carry on our mission, by a broad youth ministry, including

Youth Educational Adventures, summer camp, and other appropriate means.

To this end, we teach the Bible with a goal of helping people make their own lives work

while they are a positive influence and blessing to those around them.

Mr. Dart's voice and unique gift of clarity and simplicity held the audience. People were hearing the Gospel message in an understandable way.

The phone began to ring and people wanted a recording of the message they had just heard. Radio stations also wanted the voice of this conservative visionary to air. Programs were crafted to help people make their lives work. They filled a need. And people listened to this rare insight into God's Word.

Individuals began to contact a radio station in their

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A Thank Offering for God. . .

With great details, King Hezekiah restored God's righteous way to Israel (2 Chronicles 29-30). He told the people it was an occasion to bring a *thank offering* to God. As *Born to Win* celebrates 20 years of preaching and publishing the Gospel, nine new radio stations have been added, shouldn't this be a time to bring a thank offering to God? Your thank offering would be greatly appreciated and used to further the Gospel on these nine new stations.

Outstanding Achievements!

- At least 1,030,000 biblically-oriented messages were mailed during Christian Educational Ministries' first 20 years.
- The *Born to Win* broadcast is heard around the world each day through radio and on the Internet 24/7 at www.borntowin.net.
- Listen and learn from the enormous amount of information you can find on CEM's new website, www.borntowin.net.
- Find us on Facebook by searching for "Christian Educational Ministries." Our page is active and exciting. Enjoy daily motivational Scriptures, radio messages, a prayer group, and much more. Visit often for regular updates and don't forget to "like" and "share."
- CEM publishes and distributes the *Born to Win* monthly newsletter in print and email.
- Start your Sabbath listening to the Weekend Bible Study. A new online Bible Study is posted on Friday night and there are more than three hundred different Bible Studies, covering books of the Bible and other important topics already available online 24/7. We offer this weekend Bible Study free on CD as well—contact us and let us know you want to be on the Weekend Bible Study List.
- Come worship with us at 2 p.m. CT each Sabbath at 312 W. Main Street, Whitehouse, Texas, or join us online at www.borntowin.net/live.
- Transcribed sermons, broadcasts, booklets, Bible Studies and Bible Study Notes are sent freely as a part of CEM's prison ministry.
- CEM publishes multiple Bible Study courses, booklets, biblical articles, and notes to enhance personal Bible Study.
- CEM hosts an outstanding Feast of Tabernacles each autumn with great speakers, insightful seminars, youth classes for five age groups, youth and social events for inspiration, learning, and fellowship. In 2016, CEM will add a second location co-sponsored with CGI at Land Between the Lakes, KY.
- YEA, an arm of CEM, publishes full-color Sabbath School lesson books for five different age groups, spanning 17 years of a child's life.
- YEA! Let's R.E.A.C.H. online is for kids three to 20 with daily biblical fun and challenging activities that can be downloaded *FREE* and done at home or for homeschooling.
- The CEM Bookstore offers eleven books Mr. Dart has written (two co-authored), 47 CD series, booklets, YEA and Bible Study lessons, MP3s and CDs of broadcasts, and more. Call CEM at 1-888-242-5344 toll-free, email us at adm@borntowin.net, or return the enclosed card for a *FREE* catalog.

December Reading Plan

December 1: 1 Corinthians 9-11	December 17: Philippians 1-4
December 2: 1 Corinthians 12-14	December 18: 1 Timothy
December 3: 1 Corinthians 15-16	December 19: Titus
December 4: 2 Corinthians 1-4	December 20: 1 Peter
December 5: 2 Corinthians 5-9	December 21: Hebrews 1-6
December 6: 2 Corinthians 10-13	December 22: Hebrews 7-10
December 7: Acts 20:1-3; Romans 1-3	December 23: Hebrews 11-13
December 8: Romans 4-7	December 24: 2 Timothy
December 9: Romans 8-10	December 25: 2 Peter; Jude
December 10: Romans 11-13	December 26: 1 John
December 11: Romans 14-16	December 27: 2 & 3 John
December 12: Acts 20:4-23:35	December 28: Revelation 1-5
December 13: Acts 24-26	December 29: Revelation 6-11
December 14: Acts 27-28	December 30: Revelation 12-18
December 15: Colossians; Philemon	December 31: Revelation 19-22
December 16: Ephesians	

area to purchase time for the *Born to Win* program to be aired. The *Born to Win* program was soon heard in other countries. *Born to Win* was already international! People around the world became addicted to Ron's rare insights into the Bible, coupled with clarity and simplicity.

Over 800 broadcasts that Mr. Dart has recorded can be used for many future years. They are sound Bible teachings that don't change. CEM also has more than 1,000 of Mr. Dart's sermons on a variety of subjects. People have been so kind to send us previous sermons to fill-in vacancies in our inventory. There is a wealth of learning to be had from this enormous inventory.

CEM is a stand alone ministry and plans to stay that way. Attempts have been made to absorb, or merge CEM, but that won't happen. From the beginning Ron Dart said he had no intentions of starting another Church of God. People already had plenty from which to select. So he started a service organization. Our motto was to compete with none and cooperate with all. We want to open our arms to all of the Churches of God, as well as Christians of every stripe to help them. Christian Educational Ministries started publishing a CEM Network newsletter with articles helpful to all professing Christians. Ron not only was an excellent writer, but has an enormous vocabulary. To my knowledge, CEM offers the most extensive selection of books, articles, CDs and DVDs, Bible Study helps, and a curriculum of Youth Educational Adventures lessons program of any of the Churches of God.

This year marks 20 years of CEM's service. At the Feast of Tabernacles this year, Linda Benton saw to it that it was not only commemorated, but celebrated on the Sabbath during the Feast. We shared the usual celebration cake. But one of the things that made it special was the bag of gifts everyone received to mark the occasion. Among other things this included two *Born to Win* mugs, a book marker with Ron's picture, and prayer by him, a wall hanging holy day calendar, and a special CD series of some of Mr. Dart's milestone messages. It's an understatement to say the brethren loved their gifts. The icing on the cake was when Ron sang special music—his favorite—Let the Lower Lights Be Burning. What a celebration!

We're very optimistic about CEM's future for several reasons. First, exciting things are happening with God's work. A few months ago we started social media. It's impressive what that medium is producing for *Born to Win*. It's the way of the future and we've jumped right in to see how many people we can help make it in God's Kingdom.

Recently we put a critical eye on all our literature and updated text and gave many a completely new and fresh look. We added more color. This has produced more interest and moved more articles, booklets, Bible Study helps, etc. out of our office into the hands of people who need them.

Among other things, *Born to Win* has recently added seven new radio stations in Florida and gone back on KCBC in the Bay Area where it has the potential of reaching more than a million listeners. We've been there before, but feel God is leading us to go back into that area. October 28th we picked up a New Orleans station WSHO, 800 on the AM dial. Call our office toll free at 1-888-242-5344 for an updated radio log.

We have a good group of hard working people at CEM. God is blessing the work being done here. We feel it's upward and onward from here with a focus on "bringing many sons to glory." You're invited to join and help us in our efforts to preach the Gospel to the world.

YEA Feast Books for 2016

Build your Feast site with excellent, full-color YEA lessons/seminars for five age groups. See last year's lesson books at cemfot.com/yea.html.

Call 1-888-BIBLE-44 now for more information and bulk order discounts.



Ministry!

A Personal from Ronald L. Dart, February 1996

No, I do not mean “the ministry,” as in the professional clergy. I mean “ministry” in the New Testament sense, which is to say “service.” Words and meanings change so easily and so subtly, the way we think can change without our realizing what has happened.

Over the centuries and through the generations since Jesus laid the foundation for his church, major changes have taken place in the ministry of the visible church. In this generation, we seem to have accepted those changes without a lot of thought.

Take the concept of “bishop” as outlined in 1 Timothy 3, and lay it opposite the modern English definition. A bishop is: “a person who supervises a number of local churches or a diocese, being in the Greek, Roman Catholic, Anglican, and other churches a member of the highest order of the ministry.”

Contrast that with the New Testament where the word “bishop” (literally, “overseer”) is equated with “elder” (Titus 1:5-7), and there are elders (plural) in each church. Actually, “bishop” is the function while “elder” is the office.

Paul’s discussion of the qualification of an overseer (1 Timothy 3:1 ff) is interesting for what it does not include. There is not one word about educational requirements or professional certification. What may be even more surprising, Paul requires no special spiritual gifts (and let us not make the mistake of assuming that these are merely entrance requirements; Paul says plainly that “a bishop must be blameless”).

When we analyze these requirements, we find that they can be summarized in four categories: experience, character, reputation, and aptitude. While a bishop must have an aptitude for teaching, he does not have to be a gifted teacher. Consider the kind of person described here. It is a person with experience in life and in the faith, a person of good character whose character is evident in his conduct, a person with a good reputation in the community and the church and a person who can explain the Scriptures.

These are not the requirements for a professional clergyman. They are a description of the kind of man who can serve as one of the overseers of a church. They describe an elder.

It is regrettable that the application of this passage has shifted over the years. Somehow it has been taken to

apply to the professional clergy and the simplicity of the office has been overwhelmed in the structure and politics of church organizations. The result has been a tragic shortage of elders in most of the churches.

The “qualifications” have been interpreted as a towering set of requirements that few men could ever meet. In fact, they are merely the basics of what is required to be a good Christian. What Paul is saying is that while many Christians don’t live up to the name, the overseers *must* live up to it. The ordination of an elder has placed a man on a pedestal rather than making him a servant to the church. Much the same error corrupted the office of deacon. The original deacon was not the sergeant-at-arms for a local congregation, but the one who saw to the physical needs of people who need help.

Is there then no place for a professional clergy? Well, there was nothing quite like that in the New Testament church. Ministry, in the New Testament church, was the work of everyone. The gifts of the spirit were distributed through the church for the purpose of ministry. One might be given the gift of teaching, while another is given the gift of administration. One might be given the gift of languages, while another is given the gift of discernment. One might be given the gift of healing while another was given the gift of helps (1 Corinthians 12:6-31).

Paul took pains to teach the Corinthians that there was a balance of ministry spread through out the church and that the church could grow by that which every “joint” of the body supplied (Ephesians 4:16).

The idea that “ministry” is the function of a professional (or semi-professional) clergy has left most of the church sitting on the sidelines watching. No wonder our growth has been sluggish. We have only used a fraction of the resources available to us. Even evangelism has been hindered because we have assumed it is the work of one.

Centralized mass evangelism has its place, but if it works alone, it is an inefficient means of getting the job done. Several years ago, I gave a sermon on personal evangelism—how each of us can have a part in carrying the “good news” to the world. If I were doing that sermon today, I would call it “Personal Ministry,” because ‘evangelism’ in our terminology, is much too

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narrow a work. We are all to be involved in the work of making disciples (Matthew 28:19-20) but the work cannot stop there.

While many of us might not be able to work directly in the “ministry of the word,” that is not all there is to ministry. We need to learn the skills of visitation, letter writing, encouraging phone calls, hospital visiting, and even home help. If you have no family and you are sick, to whom can you turn? If you have lost your job and have children to care for will the church be there to help? I suppose one of the reasons we are afraid when we have no minister is because we rely on him to give instructions or to lead the way. But if you are going to call yourself by the name of Christ, sooner or later you must put your hand to ministry. Why not make it sooner?

Here is a plan for personal ministry taken from Ron Dart’s message, *The Real Work*:

1. At the personal level, take stock of your life. What kind of example do you set among your co-workers, your neighbors? While you are running around on your wife is not a good time to argue with your co-workers about keeping the Sabbath.
2. Start putting your life in order. Confess your sins and start putting things right. If you hang out with people who use a lot of profanity, stop using it yourself. Be consistent. Don’t talk of the immorality of others when you are living immorally yourself. You will risk being considered a hypocrite and will be a stumbling block between people and the Gospel.
3. Don’t give place to the corruption of the world. We are the light of the world.
4. We who are strong must bear the infirmities of the weak. That means we must work to be strong both morally and financially.
5. Address the physical and spiritual needs of your neighbor and of the people you encounter with the Bible, your time, and your money.
6. Prepare yourself with knowledge of the Scriptures.
7. Share your faith with others.

Order your *FREE* copy of *The Real Work* by calling us at 1-888-242-5344, returning the enclosed card or emailing us at adm@borntowin.net,

Sufficient for the Day

By Ronald L. Dart for November 1997 Newsletter

In a time of religious confusion, people cast about, sometimes desperately, for answers to the age-old questions of God, life, and meaning. And it is not enough to find answers to questions. What we seem to want is a *system* of answers—an integrated, whole religion that has all the right answers in systematic form. What it boils down to is a desire to find the One True Church, the church that makes all the others false.

There are many pretenders to this unified system. It is so tempting to try for a complete theology, a unified theory of God that nearly everyone tries. But the search runs aground on a simple truth. There has never been a religious system that is a full and complete representation of all that is God.

There have been religions that are true. Noah, Abraham, Moses, and the Apostles all *encountered* God and testified of him, and all of them told the truth. We believe their testimony. But none of them offer the final, comprehensive view of God. Their religion was true, but it was not “The Truth.” There was far too much truth yet to come in Jesus Christ (John 1:14).

Some, trying to “follow the old paths,” have taken a new look at Judaism, but Judaism could never contain God. Judaism is not even the religion of Moses or Israel. It is the religion of the Jews. This should not be taken as minimizing the faith of the Jews. Judaism is an expression of the devotion of the Jewish people to the God of their fathers and, as such, it deserves our respect.

But Judaism started with a divine revelation and went on to build a religion around that revelation. What results is not merely a religion, but a *religious culture*. Understanding the culture may, in some cases, help us to understand the original faith, but it may obscure that faith. Even where it clarifies the original faith, that faith is not the complete and true faith that makes all others false. It is the best faith the men of the time could hold. The best of human religion is an incomplete revelation. It may be a complete *devotion* without being the comprehensive religious truth we pursue.

When you think about it, you will know it is true. It is folly to think that Noah or Abraham had the all-

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encompassing system of answers we are looking for. They had a faith *sufficient for the day*, but they knew nothing of what would later be revealed.

If the Old Testament religions did not fully comprehend God, sectarian Christianity has done no better. The evidence for that lies in the manifold and unending schisms that rack Christian churches. The occasional merger notwithstanding, the tendency of Christianity has always been to divide. Sometimes the divisions have led to war and death.

And consider this tragic truth: Most of the splits and schisms in Christian history have grown out of the search for the comprehensive truth of God—for that one all-encompassing system of religious thought that provides *all* the answers. If all this were merely a search for the truth, it would be healthy. But it is not. It is a search for the truth that makes others false. That “truth,” when found, would of necessity divide.

That one true system will never be found, but that doesn’t stop the search. There have been many who thought they had found it. Often as not, they have turned into leaders of cults.

What do we do in these confusing times? First, understand that times like these are confusing, not because we can’t find answers, but because we find too many answers. And, unless we have our critical faculties sharpened, we may, to borrow a phrase from Paul, be “blown about by every wind of doctrine.”

Second, remember that, at any given point in time, we don’t *need* all the answers. We only need the answers that are *sufficient for the day*. The chances are you have those answers already in hand. If you lack anything, it is not more answers, but the *resolve to put the answers to work*.

And it is here that we commonly make our big mistake. Instead of biting the bullet and using the answers we have, we look for better answers—or at least answers we are more comfortable with. The search for the “one true system that makes all others false” grows out of an inability to face up to the decisions we need to make now with the answers we already have. When you understand what is happening, the mistake is easy to see. We would like to believe that if we can hold the right set of doctrines, then we are right and the others are wrong. Never mind that we are neglecting our children, abusing our spouses, cheating our employers, or lying to our friends. We have “the Truth.”

If you have a faith sufficient for the day, you have a faith upon which God can build. You may never know all there is to know about God, but you will always know what you need to know. God’s grace will cover the rest.

Having told you all this, I admit that there is one great unifying principle which is too often neglected. It is the bond of affection that grows between us. But then love is more demanding than doctrine. Love requires that we take the answers we have and put them to work. Love requires that we lay down our lives for our friends.

Before the Beginning

January 2010 by Ronald L. Dart

Let’s think the unthinkable for a moment. We know that “*In the beginning* was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was *in the beginning* with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made” (John 1:1-3).

What I want us to think about is the time *before* the beginning, and that is no simple matter. In the beginning, the Word already *was*. What I want to examine is, what was there *before* the beginning?

Stretch your imagination as far as it will go. Theologians draw the distinction that God is the only

uncreated being. We have an image of God in our minds, so let’s call out that image and place it in, for want of a better term, space. We have our God alone, the only light that exists in what would otherwise be total darkness, with nothing for God to see, because nothing has been created.

How long do we suppose that God would have been content to allow that state to continue before he said to himself, “I think I will create something”? Not long, you say. But here is the problem. No matter when God made the decision to create something, there was an eternity of time before that.

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If you are getting a sinking feeling in your stomach when you try to imagine all this, good for you. You probably should. This picture just doesn't work. It makes no sense at all. It may not make sense because it is over our heads. Or, it may not make sense because it isn't *true*. Accepting the limitations of our minds, because we have no choice but to accept them, it is not true that God stood alone in the dark for the eternity that existed before he created anything.

So what *was* true? There was a beginning that is true. On this, both science and the Bible agree. John not only tells us that God and the Word coexisted at the very beginning, but he goes a step beyond. Of the Word, he says, "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." So whatever we can know about the time *before* the beginning, there was nothing and no one created before the beginning. There was not even time as we know it, because that is also where *time* began. Steven Hawking refers to that moment of beginning as "the singularity" (his term for what others call "the Big Bang") and concludes that it is impossible to look beyond the singularity—the moment when the universe came into being and began its expansion. All science can do is look at what is. Before the singularity, there was nothing. Nothing except God, and a lonely God at that. But wait. There were angels, weren't there? Yes, but angels are created beings. What about the time before angels? How long was that?

There is one short passage in the Bible where the throne room of the universe is described. That room is populated by one on the throne, by four living creatures, and by 24 elders. How long had they been there? Were they created, and if so when? The answer is simple: we don't know. It is not revealed (see Revelation 4:1-11).

Most of this is beyond our ken, but the idea of God being alone begins to wear a little thin. Heaven is populated by many beings. One of them is God. Where did the others come from? Had they, too, always existed, or were they created?

This chapter ends with this song: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being" (v. 11).

"You have created all things." That means that there

was a beginning where God acted to create, and there was nothing else before that time.

Before we get completely lost out here in space, let's clarify one issue. When we speak of God, simply, we usually mean the One Jesus called, "My Father." Paul spoke of that One as "God the Father." But there is a major crisis in our picture later in that first chapter of John. "He (the Word) was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made" (John 1:2-3).

Immediately we are presented with not one, but two beings. The Word was God, but it was also *with* God. So God was not alone after all. John opens this up further when he plainly identifies the Word as Creator. Then he adds: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (v. 14).

Two things become clear. In John, the Word is Jesus Christ who came in the flesh, and he came from the Father. Therefore Jesus, the Word, is himself God. Getting confused?

There are two who are called God in this place. The second of the two was the One who created all things. Therefore, God was not alone from eternity. Amazingly, we have looked beyond Hawking's singularity. We have looked beyond the beginning and come to understand *something*.

It is still mind-boggling, because we have two alone in the dark. But let's do some more stretching of the imagination. Whatever we may conclude about the universe, science and the Bible agree that planet earth had a beginning and that it will have an end. We can study the rocks and conclude that the earth has not always been here, and science tells us an approximate age. Not only that, it is known, from the laws of science and from the Bible, that our sun will eventually die and we will all die with it. From this, I conclude that the earth is merely a project in a much bigger world than we can imagine.

Not only is the earth merely a project, so is the universe. There was a time when it didn't exist, and there will be a time in the future when the last star burns out and all is dark again. Here is something important to

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know about the Bible. The Bible is only about the time from the beginning until now. It can only deal with *this* project of God.

The Bible is only, *can* only, deal with this project. It does not reveal anything of the time before the beginning, except that God already was. Some are fond of asking, who created God? No one. Where did God come from? Nowhere. He has always been.

I blow a fuse about this time. I can sort of grasp the idea of eternity going forward. But I can't hold in my

mind the idea of eternity going back in time. My mind, and yours, has been created to see things in terms of beginnings and ends. So God does not ask us to see before the beginning of the project that includes you and me. That doesn't keep us from wondering about it, does it?

It seems clear enough that God was not alone from eternity. And I can't help myself. I wonder what he was doing for all that time before "the Beginning." There's more, but you'll need to ask for a *FREE* CD of a radio program titled, *Before the Beginning*. Just call us at 1-888-242-5344, or send an email to adm@borntowin.net, or check the box on the enclosed card and return it to us.

Where Jesus Walked

Personal from November 2002

**I walked today where Jesus walked,
In days of long ago.**

**I wandered down each path He knew,
With reverent step and slow.**

It is a beautiful old song, and I had heard it many times, always assuming that the songwriter had visited the holy land and had been touched by the experience. Having been to Israel and Palestine many times, I was rather blasé about the song. The poet's lines, "Those little lanes, they have not changed, A sweet peace fills the air." left me untouched. The little lanes have changed drastically and there has never been a sweet peace filling the air in Palestine.

But one day, in total solitude and forced immobility, I was listening to the music and was strangely moved by it. I know nothing of the story behind the song, but I came to realize that it was much more than a Holy Land travelog. And that you don't have to go to Israel to walk, today, where Jesus walked. All you have to do is read his story, to follow him from Nazareth to Jerusalem, from Jerusalem to Bethany, from Capernaum to the shores of the Sea of Galilee, "with reverent steps and slow." And that when you do, you can feel him close to you.

I think it was the "reverent step and slow" line that changed my mind. Like everyone else, my life is hectic and seems to get more so all the time. I had to be pinned down in a doctor's office, unable to move while I took a treatment. I had a headset on listening to the song, and it took that for me to appreciate what I was hearing and to

actually think about it.

And so with reverent step and slow, I started to consider anew the truth that Jesus was a real person who walked the trails and lanes of Palestine, who was tempted in all points as I am and who never sinned. I began to realize that in walking the streets of my own town, I am walking where Jesus walked. I am being tempted as he was tempted. I am encountering sick people just as he did. I eat with publicans and sinners, just as he did. Unlike him, I am not without sin, but I can walk, today, where Jesus walked and perhaps, with reverent step and slow, I can feel him close to me.

**My pathway led to Bethlehem,
with memories ever sweet.**

**The little hills of Galilee,
That knew those childish feet.**

Even when I was a boy, exploring the woods, hills and streams of the Ozarks with my dog, I was walking where Jesus walked. Born in Bethlehem, laid in a manger, Jesus was every bit the boy that I was. He faced all the dangers, joys, thrills, and pains of childhood. And the curious thing about all this is that even as a boy, there were times when I felt him close to me. There were times I prayed. There were times when I was in fear that I comforted myself by imagining myself in the lap of God with his arms around me.

All around me I see children, and if they only knew, they could have Jesus walking with them every day of

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their lives. If someone will take the time to lead them down the paths from Bethlehem to Egypt to Nazareth and introduce them to Jesus they will always have a friend who understands them and cares about them. Even in the dark, they will never be alone. But someone has to tell them.

**I knelt today where Jesus knelt,
Where all alone he prayed.
The Garden of Gethsemane,
My heart felt unafraid.**

I know that if I had been there with Peter and John while Jesus prayed in Gethsemane, I would have fallen asleep too. But now, all these years later, everything is different. Now I understand what Jesus was facing that night in the garden, and I can kneel and pray with him. But there is something very strange about the experience. Jesus was praying that if it were possible, the cup might pass from him. If I am kneeling beside him, I know that my life depends on his drinking of that cup.

So how do I, kneeling with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, pray? Can my prayers reach back to that night in the garden and, like the angel God sent to him, strengthen him as he prays with sweat like great drops of blood on his brow? Can my prayers help him make his decision to accept the will of the Father?

When I kneel in prayer, especially in great trouble, I kneel today where Jesus knelt. But I don't pray alone. I know that he prays with me and my heart is unafraid.

**I picked my heavy burden up,
And with Him at my side,
I climbed the Hill of Calvary,
Where on the Cross He Died!**

When I think about it, my burden does not seem so heavy. But his words come down through time to me: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

What burden I have, I have to pick it up and walk with him where he went. In suffering pain, I am walking where Jesus walked. In loss of friends and betrayal, I am walking where Jesus walked. In suffering humiliation, I am walking where Jesus walked. I can find no road, no lane, no trail, where Jesus has not walked. Even when the time comes to die, even if it is in great pain, I will be

walking where Jesus walked. He walked every one of those roads with grace and without sin. And by his grace, so can I.

Today, I look at the story of Jesus with a new perspective. He is the alpha and omega, the first and the last. Every road begins and ends with him. If I am going to carry his name and call myself a Christian, I must, "with reverent step and slow," walk every day where Jesus walked. And I must know that he is ever close to me.

**I walked today where Jesus walked,
And felt Him close to me.**

In Memory

Born to Win gratefully acknowledges a generous donation in memory of Bob Fahey, a United Church of God minister. Mr. Fahey was found in his garage after stent implantation heart surgery. He is survived by his wife, Evelyn, and adult children. A memorial service for Bob Fahey was held in Hinsdale, Illinois, on Sunday, October 11th. For 50 years, Bob and Evelyn Fahey's lives and service impacted a great number of people in the Church of God around the world. He served in multiple assignments pastorally and administratively in the United Kingdom, South Africa, Australia, Canada and the United States. Our deepest sympathy and prayers are with Evelyn and his family.

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Born to Win also acknowledges a generous donation in memory of Frank Scherich, 80, who was buried October 11, 2015 in Georgetown, TX. He was a fun-loving ordained minister in the Church of God International, and is survived by three sons, three daughters, 17 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Frank loved flying and was employed by Ambassador College to fly the King Air. Our prayers and sympathy are with his family. He will be sorely missed.

Born to Win

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