

Where Do We Go From Here?

Taken from Ronald L. Dart's April 28, 2009 Radio Notes

Many people had jobs last year they thought could last to retirement. Then they got notice they were being laid off. To say the least, it is a disorienting experience to be laid off and find yourself on the street, wondering: Where do we go from here?

Many businesses have had to close their doors. And they wonder: Where do we go from here? Others see their business in decline, and they have to decide whether to struggle on, or try something else. Where do we go from here?

How many people, who have already retired, have watched their retirement funds go up in smoke, have faced the issue of going back to work and asked: where do we go from here?

A lot of young people will be graduating from high school or college before long. And when they have thrown their cap in the air, the next question is: where do we go from here?

Some will likely get married in the next year, and when they get home from the honeymoon, they will ask, somewhat belatedly: where do we go from here?

But this is not the first, nor will it be the last time they will ask themselves that question.

I have been down that road, and I would like to tell you a story to illustrate what I am driving at.

Many years ago I was a ranking minister in a large church organization. I won't say that I outgrew that church, but I will say the growth that I experienced made it impossible to continue there.

That church was the direct cause of the two greatest periods of growth in my life. But there was an underlying flaw in the philosophy of the church, and the logic of that flaw inevitably led to a crisis.

I could no longer stay there. So I resigned and found myself churchless, really for the first time in my life. I faced the big question: where do we go from here?

I wish I could say that I set my goals and pursued

them to where I wanted to go, but nothing remotely like that happened. Seventeen years later, another crisis occurred with a similar result, and once again, I faced the big question: where do we go

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Where Do We Go From Here?

That's a question I needed to ask one more time. Since Ronald Dart is no longer with us, people are asking that question. First, we don't throw our hands up and say we quit, nor do we close our doors. It was Ron's wishes and intent that *Born to Win* outlive him. It has done a lot of good teaching God's Word, and we still have his clear teachings to do that. The answer lies in you and church groups willing to support the *Born to Win* broadcasts. Each message is clear, penetrating, timely, and timeless. With the help of the Holy Spirit we still have the ability to bring people to Christ. But we must get those messages out. That is where you come into play. It takes that ugly word "money." We operate with a very small dedicated staff. We're thrifty, but we can't squeeze growth. Your tithes and donations can make that happen. You have it in your hands where CEM and *Born to Win* go from here. Many of you have sent offerings in memory of Ronald L. Dart. We are most grateful and can assure you that each offering will be used judiciously to further the Gospel. Every donation and effort are greatly appreciated and determine where we go from here.

Keeping Score

By Mardy Cobb

“For not he that commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends” (2 Corinthians 10:18).

We live in a world where many people keep score. Self promotion is praised. Opinions seem to be everything. There are countless polls of what people claim they think, believe, trust, distrust, and agree with. There seems to be no end in sight. Now the elite of society—the PHDs, media personalities, and professors tell us they know the truth because of opinion polls, votes, or studies in popularity. Mankind decides what has meaning and what is true by what can be counted and calculated. A recent study shows the percentage who agree with these statement. According to Twitter and social media, the celebrity with the greatest number of followers is. . . According to television ratings, the newscast with the largest audience nationwide is. . . According to the student body, the most popular professor is. . . According to attendance records, the politician with the biggest audiences in their speeches over the last month is. . .

Polls show who is religious, what type of religion they practice, and if they are serious about their religion. The following are polling questions for those who consider themselves Christian.

1. A Mega Church is a church with more than 2000 members. Mega Church memberships generally explode in the two to five year range. These churches are successful.
 - a. Agree
 - b. Disagree
2. Some pastors have been teaching for two to five years in the same church with membership of less than 150. These churches are not successful?
 - a. Agree
 - b. Disagree

We live in a world where many people keep score. Self promotion is praised. Opinions seem to be everything. There are countless polls of what people claim they think, believe, trust, distrust, and agree with. There seems to be no end in sight.

If these questions were sent to a large sample of people, what percentage would agree with these two questions? I tend to think more than half. Would that mean that the majority is telling us the truth? No.

Joel Osteen’s church membership is more than 40,000 people. According to recent studies, he has the largest church in the United States. He claims to preach the message of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ had 120 members in his church after three and one half years of teaching. Does that mean Joel Osteen is more successful than Jesus Christ?

We cannot decide what is true, successful, nor meaningful from a poll. Our opinions do not make us right, even if the entire world agrees with us. A poll cannot tell us if we are Christian. Nor can it tell us how

many Christians there are in this state or that county. A Christian is one who follows Christ. Polls don’t decide that. Christ does. Human opinions are untrustworthy. Christ is the truth.

To follow Christ, we must trust him. Jesus said, “Let your heart not be troubled, you believe in God, believe also in Me” (John 14:1). We must also love and obey him. Jesus said, “If you love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). But we cannot love the world, nor trust that the truth is in the world. The Apostle John told us, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world, for all that is in the world: the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life are not of the Father, but are of the world. And the world is passing away, but he who loves the Father will live forever” (1 John 2:15-17).

Learn to trust God more. Make sure that you accept the truer definitions of truth, right, wrong, and the meaning of life from God’s Word. Not from polls, votes, nor the opinions of humans.

The Desert Road

Letter from Betty Lawson

January 23, 2016: Sorrow filled my heart today, when I learned of the death of Ronald L. Dart. I am also thankful to our great God for blessing so many with such a wise teacher of God's Word. My prayer is for God to send his comforting spirit to Allie Dart, Ron's wife and helpmate for these many years.

Tonight I read again from God Words that to me identified the work of Ronald Dart. I was like the Ethiopian, and Ronald L. Dart was my Philip. Philip was instructed by an angel of the Lord, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." I was on a desert road looking for a clearer meaning of God's Word. The Bible says that the Ethiopian was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah. The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." God's plan was to use Philip to explain his Word. Philip asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The Ethiopian replied, "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" (Acts 8:28-40).

Ronald Dart has explained Scriptures in the clearest and most concise way of any teacher I have ever known. God gifted Ronald Dart as one of his teachers. He in turn used that gift to teach many thousands. We have been and remain blessed by the profound simplicity of

God's Word made plain by listening and reading along with Ronald Dart as he explains. I am thankful that God sent Ronald Dart to this person, who like the Ethiopian of old, needed someone to help explain.

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I can read the Bible over and over, and always find myself understanding more with each Scripture read. I feel that as long as I have ears to hear, and eyes to read, I will never hunger from not hearing God's Word. I have a library full of Ronald Dart's teaching of God's Word, and just as I can read the Bible and always find myself understanding more with each reading, I find myself doing the same every time I listen to the teachings of Ronald Dart. God has blessed me tremendously through Ronald Dart and the *Born to Win* ministries. My prayer is that Christian Educational Ministries will continue to bless others.

Memory Scriptures for April

Topic: Foot washing and the Passover



Exodus 12:11
Exodus 12:12
Exodus 12:13
John 1:29
John 2:23
John 13:3-5
John 13:13-15
Matthew 26:26-28
Luke 22:15
1 Corinthians 5:7-8
John 19:30
John 20:30-31

CEM's East Texas Feast Site—Rest, Reflect, Renew

By Allie Dart

Christians in our tradition celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles for eight days in the autumn each year. It is one of the “appointed times,” commanded by God in Leviticus 23. “It shall be a statute *forever* in your generations...” (v. 41).

With powerful Christian significance the Feast points to Jesus Christ. It reminds us that we are strangers and pilgrims on the earth—we are not at home. God gave us a promise and we die having never received it. In a way, the celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles is a confession of this belief that we are not at home here—we look for something far better. Leaving your home and living in temporary dwellings reinforces this.

For eight days we will worship God and his Son Jesus Christ, learn, rest, play, and bond with many Christians. Every day we’ll lift up our voices in praise to God and hear inspired sermons given by the best speakers we can find. Daily Christian living and educational seminars and workshops will be offered. Also, for five days, fun and lively YEA classes and seminars will be taught for our children three to 20.

For eight days we will worship God and his Son Jesus Christ, learn, rest, play, and bond with many Christians.

Plans for the 2016 Feast of Tabernacles, October 17 through October 24, offer exciting options for everyone. CEM will be celebrating the Feast in two locations to make it more convenient for you to attend with us. We are once again providing a wonderful opportunity to worship and fellowship in East Texas at Timberline Camp and Conference Center as well as Land Between the Lakes, Kentucky, in partnership with CGI.

Timberline’s facilities provide an excellent environment for a Feast—motel units, with private baths and linens provided, overlook a private lake with a short walk from a beautiful dining facility. RV sites and tent camping are also available here. It is located on 100 plus acres of wooded hills, with year-round walking trails and many other recreational

opportunities. This facility will remind you of the environment we had at Green Acres Retreat in 2014.

We have enjoyed sharing meals together over the past couple of years. Timberline offers us a dining hall and cafeteria. They will provide reasonably priced meals that meet our dietary needs. We can continue that tradition of sharing meals together.

CEM plans for the usual family picnic, pie and ice cream social, praise and worship, and family dance. In addition to this, Timberline offers a wide range of recreation options that are sure to meet the needs of any group. Looking for an adventurous adrenaline rush? Then try the zip-line or high ropes course. Want some outdoor sports? The paintball, archery, .22’s and skeet range may meet your needs. However, if you are looking for a more relaxing option, you can sit by the pool, catch a few fish, or have a relaxing paddle boat ride on the private lake.

A number of activities are available to all groups on a first come, first served basis. Volleyball, basketball, ga-ga ball (an Israeli form of dodge ball), tether ball, dodge ball, ping pong, and horseshoes are some of these options.

If you want to stay onsite at Timberline you need to register as soon as possible. All onsite housing and meals will be reserved through CEM.

Go to the CEM website to check out both Feast sites. Call the CEM office to request information and to register. It will be helpful to know you are coming.

Texas or Kentucky—this will be a CEM Feast you will not want to miss.

Housing costs are as follows:

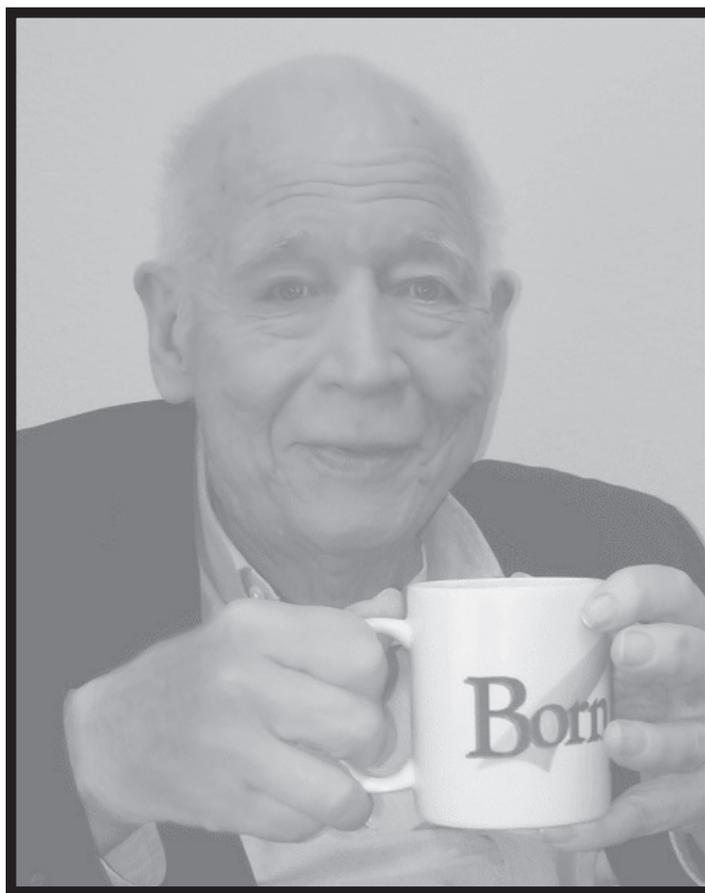
- Motel rooms sleep up to four people and are \$50 per night for two full beds or a full bed and a bunk bed. (there are no refrigerators or food prep facilities in the rooms)
- RV sites are \$20 per night
- Tent sites are \$4 per person, per night (tent sites have no power and you must supply your own tent and camping equipment)

Food costs per meal are as follows:

- Breakfast \$5
- Lunch \$6
- Dinner \$7

In Memory

So many of you sent generous donations in Memory of Ronald L. Dart. These showed a tremendous outpouring of your love, sympathy, and support of me, and the great work Ron did in preaching the Gospel. Reading each one was heartwarming and gave me great comfort. These gifts also showed your support for the great work Ron did in preaching and publishing the Gospel. I and *Born to Win* are most grateful to each one of you. As Ron wanted and instructed, *Born to Win* will continue. With God's help and your support we shall go forward.



Eulogy for Ron Dart

All of us here at Legacy Institute wish to extend our heartfelt condolences at the passing of Ron. Ron Dart was one of those special people who have an abundance of talent—given by God—and overflowing. He was a brilliant speaker, writer and pastor. He helped so many people over the years during his days in WCG, CGI and his own CEM ministry. He was a true servant of The King of Glory and died with his boots on. His reward is great in the Kingdom of God. We will all mourn his passing and there is a hole in the fabric of the Church.

All our love and prayers for Allie at this time,
Leon and Gloria Sexton and the Legacy Team

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from here? I didn't know so much where I was going as that I could not, must not stay.

I am telling you this to underline something that should be obvious. Where I was and what I was doing when I wrote this article, was never a goal *I* set for myself. I couldn't have. No one can see that far into the future. And yet I was firm in the conviction that I was where God wants me to be and doing what he wanted me to do. How did that happen?

Let me give you an even more compelling example—Saul on the road to Damascus. “And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?”

“And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus.

“And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink. And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him saw the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.

“Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. But the

Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake” (Acts 9:1-16).

No one can possibly imagine how devastating that moment was for Saul. His entire life lay in shambles around him. His most basic faith and belief were shattered. Not that there was no God, but that God was nothing like he imagined. How on earth could Saul, as he started this great journey, possibly know where he would end up? He didn't even get to ask where he would go from there.

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“The Holy Spirit.” You may
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So the Holy Spirit is a kind
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He was told that he would be told later. Even more than any of us, Saul had the big question: where do we go from here?

And when the answer came, it was big, really big . . . But terribly short on details. The truth is that Paul had very little idea where he would end up and what he would be doing between here and there.

So am I saying that life is a crap shoot and we just go along for the ride? No!

There is this element called “The Holy Spirit.” You may realize that the word translated “Spirit” is the Greek word for “wind.” So the Holy Spirit is a kind of “Divine Wind.”

Just a few days ago, we were out walking on a very windy day. It occurred to me that if we just stood still, the wind would swirl around us and continue on as if we had never been there. On the other hand, if we are in a boat, put up a sail and man the rudder, the wind can take us places we never imagined that we could go.

When Paul was healed, he had to ask, where do we go from here, and there was no immediate answer. So he just did what came naturally and nearly got himself killed. He began to debate with the Jews in

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Damascus about who the Messiah was. And he was good at it. The Jews wanted to kill him, and he had to be let down over the wall in the night. He went to Jerusalem and stirred up so much trouble that they sent him home to Tarsus. Everything quieted down after he left.

But Saul sat in Tarsus wondering, where do we go from here? This isn't what I was called for.

Finally, Barnabas got him and brought him back to Antioch. Have you noticed how little Paul had to do with where he went and what he did. Antioch was where he finally got the wind in his sails. Literally and figuratively.

How can you plan for an event like this? How can you include it in your goals and objectives? They were just doing what Christians did; they were doing the Lord's ministry. It was when the Holy Spirit spoke that things began to move.

“Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus” (Acts 13:1-4).

Why am I telling you this? How can you plan for an event like this? How can you include it in your goals and objectives? They were just doing what Christians did; they were doing the Lord's ministry. It was when the Holy Spirit spoke that things began to move.

Paul's story is utterly fascinating. He is easily the most influential man in the development of Christian theology and the propagation of the Christian faith. And none of it was his doing. All he did was go where the Divine Wind took him.

“Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not. And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them” (Acts 16:6-10).

“Assuredly gathering”—that is a revealing remark that Luke makes here. The Lord did not tell them where to go. The Holy Spirit just boxed them in to Troas and gave them a hint.

Why does God do it that way? I don't know, but I do know one thing. And that one thing is the whole point of this message. God is not going to tell you the end from the beginning. You have to trust him. The painful truth about the big question, where do we go from here, is that no one knows. Oh, we can make plans and so we should. We can set goals and that is a good thing. But if you are inflexible in the pursuit of those goals, you are likely to miss the really big things. The important thing about goals and objectives is that they set a course for us.

If the objective is in the eye of the wind, it will be hard to get there. We have to adapt. Over the years of my ministry, I have not always known where I was going. I have often been asked what my long term goals are, for myself, for CEM. I feel funny when people ask that, because I really don't know. I just know what I have to do when I get up in the morning. I used to feel guilty about that, but not long ago, I saw one of the movers and shakers in Washington being interviewed.

The man was worth something like one billion dollars. The interviewer asked him about his goals and objectives. I don't recall his exact words, but I was dumfounded at what he said. He hadn't pursued a plan to get where he was. He said opportunities had come his way and he took advantage of them.

It made me feel better about my own ministry. So nowadays, when asked about my goals, I remember an incident when Jesus' disciples found him talking to the woman at the well in Samaria.

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“Meanwhile his disciples urged him, ‘Rabbi, eat something.’ But he said to them, ‘I have food to eat that you know nothing about.’ Then his disciples said to each other, ‘Could someone have brought him food?’ “My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more and then the harvest?’ I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest (John 4:32-35).

I have never known that I was going to end up where I am. But all along I knew with clarity what I should be doing that day. And it is in that doing, that the Holy Spirit can take you where it wants you to go. If you just stand still, the wind will swirl around you and go on as if you had not even been there—if you are doing the right things, the wind will catch your sails.

Who knows where you could go?

This will work in your church, your education, your job, your marriage. Do the right things, and be ready to go where the Divine Wind takes you.

“So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep. Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not . . . Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; . . . Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he just wait till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me” (John 21:15-22).

How much did Peter know about the road ahead? Next to nothing. Did he know what he had to do? You bet—feed my sheep, and that he was where he was by a highly unpredictable chain of events that he had little to do with. But we did do one important thing. Allie and I

put up our sails, and manned the rudder. And I still can’t help wondering. Where do we go from here?

Allie Continues: With Ron gone, the big question for *Born to Win* is “Where do we go from here?” I recall an elderly gentleman many of us learned from often said that every setback was like the cocking of a gun. It fired the work of God forward.

So where do *Born to Win* and Christian Educational Ministries go from here? It was Ron’s desire and intent that *Born to Win* continue to be aired—that we keep on creating new materials, broadcast, recording, Bible teachings and doing the work of God’s with the help of those willing. It’s time for us to put up the sails and man the rudders. So the Holy Wind can work through us.

Who knows where you could go?

That’s exactly what we at *Born to Win* plan to do. John 4:35 reminds us that the “fields are white unto harvest.” These people need to be taught the Word of God. We need to help people of all stripes come to repentance and be baptized. They need to be nurtured into God’s Kingdom. We at *Born to Win* plan to honor our founder, Ronald L. Dart, by doing the work God has sent us to do. We cannot slow down or give up. We must go forward. CEM has a vast supply of Ron Dart’s recorded sermons, Bible studies, written materials that need to be in the hands of more people. We need your help. We can only do what our resources allow us to do. The question now is, “Where are you going from here?” We’re counting on you to continue to support *Born to Win* and to tell others when and how they can listen to it. You are our advertising agents. And you can do much good with your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers. The harvest is ripe and the laborers are few. But Jesus said, “Do not be afraid little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the Kingdom” (Luke 12:32). Truly the laborers are few. But with God’s help and yours, God can multiply our efforts. Time is short and we must redeem the time—put up our sails and man the rudders.

Born to Win

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