

Out of Darkness

By Ronald L. Dart

I find it impossible to criticize a woman like Mother Teresa of Calcutta. You can't find ulterior motives in a person who gives her life in the service of the poorest of the poor, living among them, providing for them. It isn't necessary to explain people like this. It is enough to admire them. What may need explaining, though, is how a woman like Mother Teresa could live her life in doubt, not so much of God, but of God's love for her. It may need explaining, if for no other reason, because so many of us live out our lives in doubt of one kind or another.

Os Guinness, a Christian apologist, wrote a book called *In Two Minds*. And he opined that there's a difference between doubt and unbelief. Doubts all of us live with. They come and they go. But unbelief is another matter altogether. The Atheists who are making so much noise these days are in a state of settled unbelief. They are, in my opinion, dishonest, because no one can know with certainty that there is no God. How could they ever prove it? They can't. They strike me as men whistling past the graveyard. They dread God and deny his existence as a defense against having to think about him. The honest people are those who admit their doubts. They may, like Sister Teresa, make a hard decision to trust God in spite of any doubts they may have.

There is a book: *Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light (The Private Writings of the Saint of Calcutta)*. One reviewer said this: "[S]he went forward, answering that divine call, even though the 'darkness' and 'desolation' within her own soul was deepening, even though 'the more I want Him, the less I am wanted by Him,' even though 'the longing for God is terribly painful, and yet the darkness is becoming greater'" (A.G. Gankarski, *The Washington Times*, October 29, 2007).

My heart breaks for her. How could anyone so *dedicated* to God's service not *realize* God's love for her? Yet, there is a part of me that understands. It is possible to love Jesus, to serve him, to do what you think he wants you to do, and yet not know him very well at all. He makes it clear enough, in his words, that faith is not a feeling. It's a

decision to trust *in spite of* feeling. He makes it clear that his grace can cover the faults and flaws of men. (And, boy, do I ever lean on that.) For most of us, the old hymn *Amazing Grace* is a great comfort. "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a *wretch* like me." It's surprising to

me, in a way, that that hymn has maintained its love over all the years with so many people, because in modern generations we're not supposed to think of ourselves as "wretches." I honestly think the theology of those old guys was a lot better than some of the theology we have today that's based on self-esteem.

continued on page 4 . . .

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Out of Darkness

By Ronald L. Dart 1

Show Your Thankfulness.. 1

Born Again 2

CEM Mission Statement .. 3

The 2017 LBL Feast Site in the Rearview Mirror

By Skip Martin. 6

BTW Radio Broadcasts Online at OnePlace.com . 6

Press Release 7

2017 CEM Festival Cruise—Rejoicing in Paradise!

By Marly Prouty. 7

Happy Thanksgiving!

Our nation has been so blessed. For years, decades, even centuries, we have lived as free people. We have enjoyed the fruits of our labor, children and grandchildren, and freedom. These blessings are given to us by God and yet our nation moves farther and farther from Him every day. Please remember to thank God for all he has blessed you with this Thanksgiving.

We want to thank all of our listeners, readers, and supporters this year for your continued prayers and support.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving Day.

By Ronald L. Dart

From the third chapter of John, in the Living Bible, there's something you haven't necessarily thought about before. "After dark one night a Jewish religious leader named Nicodemus, a member of the sect of the Pharisees, came for an interview with Jesus. 'Sir,' he said, 'we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miracles are proof enough of this.'" Jesus replied, "With all the earnestness I possess I tell you this: Unless you are born again, you can never get into the Kingdom of God" (John 3:1-3).

This is an odd thing, because Nicodemus brought up the topic he came to talk about, and Jesus bypassed it completely and shifted gears.

Nicodemus said, "We know you are a teacher come from God," and before he got his question out, Jesus interrupted him. One thing that Nicodemus was hoping, was that Jesus was merely a teacher come from God, because it was becoming very apparent to most people that he was rather more than that.

Jesus cut to the chase. He said, "With all the earnestness I possess, I tell you this." This is important! "Unless you are born again you can never get into the kingdom of God."

"Born again?" exclaimed Nicodemus. "What do you mean? How can an old man go back into his mother's womb and be born again?" (John 3:4).

I have heard a lot of arguments, theologically, about what Jesus meant by the expression "born again." What did the Greek words mean? In the first place, Jesus and Nicodemus were not speaking Greek. They were probably speaking Aramaic or, even more likely, they were speaking Hebrew. This is an account put in later by John and John wrote this in Greek, so let's not argue about that.

The question is, what did Nicodemus understand Jesus to be saying? He understood Jesus to be talking about the process of birth as we know it—when a child comes forth out of his mother's womb into the world and breathes his first breath. That's what Nicodemus understood.

"Jesus replied, 'What I'm telling you so earnestly is this, unless one is born of the water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God'" (John 3:5).

So Jesus was talking about something a little bit beyond mere human birth. In fact, while there has been some discussion about what water means in this context,

chances are it's the water connected with birth, and he was talking about the combination of the two different kinds of birth—the birth of the flesh and the birth of the Spirit.

Jesus said you have to have both, obviously. You have to be born into this world as a human being and then you have to be born again spiritually.

But what did Jesus mean by that? The presumption by many people is that they have already had this spiritual rebirth Jesus was talking about with Nicodemus. I don't want to pick a fight with anybody on this particular issue, but if by "born again" you mean the process of renewal that follows baptism, the feeling that you had a fresh start in life, that all your sins have been forgiven, you have gone into the waters of baptism and you have been born out of the waters of baptism as a new man—okay, I'll accept the fact that you have been born again.

But here's the problem, that's not what Jesus was telling Nicodemus. Listen to what Jesus said about being born of the Spirit.

"I tell you the truth," Jesus said to Nicodemus in verse five, "No one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of the water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit" (John 3:5-6). So you have to ask yourself, "Am I flesh? Or am I spirit?"

Jesus continued, "You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it pleases, you hear its sound, and you can't tell where it comes from and you can't tell where it's going..." (John 3:7-8).

The spirit is somewhat like a ghost; it is like the wind in the trees. You don't see the wind; you only see the effects of it.

Jesus continued, "So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." Just think about what you read there, what Jesus said when he talked about being born again, and being born of the Spirit. He said, "When you are born of the Spirit, you are like the wind in the trees."

People may hear you go. They may see the effect of it. But they don't see you. In other words, you have been changed into a spirit being, born of the Spirit.

As I said, I'm not necessarily arguing whether you have been "born again" or not. I'm talking about what Jesus was talking about.

continued on page 3. . .

Born Again
continued from page 2 . . .

Nicodemus asked in verse nine, “What do you mean?” Jesus replied, “You, a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don’t understand these things? I am telling you what I know and have seen—and yet you won’t believe me. But if you don’t even believe me when I tell you about such things as these that happen here among men, how can you possibly believe if I tell you what is going on in heaven?” (John 3:9-12).

The difference is that the flesh is earthly, and the spirit is heavenly.

Jesus continued, “No one has ever gone to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in Him might have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:13-16).

So what Jesus was saying is that if you are born of the flesh you’re going to die. You will pass through the days of your existence on this planet. You will fill out your life and when you get to the end of it, you are going to die and go to the grave and unless you are born again; that is, unless you are born of the Spirit, in fact born of the Spirit in the resurrection of the dead. What makes the difference? Belief in Jesus.

Continuing, “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him” (John 3:17).

Frankly, listening to some preachers, I would think that they thought that God did send his Son into the world to condemn it. There’s no question that Jesus condemned sin. There is no question whatsoever that he condemned hypocrisy, but he didn’t come to condemn the world and he did not come to destroy the world and, in fact, when Jesus comes back, he’s not coming back to destroy the world. He’s coming back to save it.

There is something in the book of Revelation about the wrath of the Lamb, that Jesus is coming back and he’s mad. This is the way somebody has characterized it. Well, yes, Jesus does come back in anger with those who are destroying the Earth. He comes back to destroy those who destroy the earth (Revelation 11:18), but he’s coming back to save the world from destruction (Zechariah 14).

Those men who are destroying the earth are those whom Jesus is going to destroy. It is those people who are going to feel the wrath of the Lamb, not the people of the world who have been abused by them, who have been confused by them, who have been deceived by them. No, no! These people are being saved by Christ from what those men are doing.

CEM Mission Statement

The mission of Christian Educational Ministries (CEM) founded in November 1995 is:

- First, to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world (Matthew 28).
- Second, to teach the disciples of Jesus Christ so that they may be “proficient and equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:17).
- Third, to teach and train this generation and the next with studies and programs focused on youth, through the Dart’s special passion, Youth Educational Adventures (YEA) (Deuteronomy 11:19, Proverbs 22:6).
- Fourth, to bring God’s people closer together, through cooperative efforts wherever they may be (2 Corinthians 5:18).

To this end, we teach the Bible and its Truth, with a goal of helping people make their own lives work while they are a positive influence and blessing to those around them. Follow Mr. Dart and CEM at www.borntowin.net, www.oneplace.com, Facebook, YouTube, and other media.

Out of Darkness
continued from page 1 . . .

But it's a truism: human beings have a hard time *accepting* God's mercy and trusting his grace. We just keep on worrying. And I think that may explain why some people have, what shall I call it, a *joyless* Christian life. Paul wrote to the Galatians: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22-25).

One gets the feeling, in reading the work of Mother Teresa, that all these attributes of the Spirit were found in her except two: peace and joy. She was gentle—she had love—she had goodness, longsuffering, faith, meekness, temperance, all those things. But there was an absence of joy, an absence of peace.

You know, though, the silence of God (which is what she was bemoaning) is not a novel idea. David complained about it clear back in the psalms. It's a fairly common complaint. He gets worried about the fact that he's off in the dark somewhere. He wrote "Unto you will I cry, O LORD my rock; be not silent to me: lest, if thou be silent to me, I become like them that go down into the pit" (Psalm 28:1).

But doesn't it seem that God *is* largely *silent* to us? Oh, we have the Bible, and that's a lot more than David had. But we still—all of us do—feel forsaken at times. Odd thing, Teresa did not feel that God was silent to her. She heard Jesus ask, in her own words, "Will you refuse?" Is it possible that she never heard in this life, from her Jesus, "Well done, good and faithful servant"?

She claims she heard him say: "Will you refuse? When there was a question of your soul, I did not think of myself but gave myself freely on the cross and now, what about you? I want free nuns covered with my poverty of the cross—I want obedient nuns covered with my obedience on the cross. I want full of love nuns covered with my charity of the cross. Will you refuse to do this for me?"

You know, this does not sound like the Jesus of Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. The difference is subtle, but the difference is important. Here is what the Jesus of Matthew said: "And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you

fishers of men. And they straightaway left their nets, and followed him" (Matthew 4:18-20).

Notice, he asked no question of these men. He did not say, "Well, are you going to refuse to follow me?" No, he said, "Come with me and here's the deal—I'll make you fishers of men." And then it was their decision whether they would do it or not—and they did. On another occasion in Matthew 8:21-22, "And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead."

Notice there's no equivocation, no casting of guilt. Just a simple command. It took me a while, in reading what Mother Teresa claimed she heard Jesus say before I realized what the difference was. He asked her a question: "Will you refuse?" Why would he ask that? Why would he expect that of her? Why would he lay that *guilt* on her? That he called her to what she's doing, I would not doubt that for a moment. That she did more good works than I will do in all of my life, yes, absolutely. But I don't think it was Jesus' intent to cast guilt upon this good woman.

On another occasion: "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, 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? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:24-26).

I noticed something interesting about all this as I was working my way through it: the word for "follow." The word for "follow" in the Greek is a combined form that means properly "to be in the same way" with someone—on the same road, to accompany. It isn't exactly to follow a few steps behind. It is to say, "walk with me." And did you notice that Jesus said, "*if* any man come after me"?? There was no casting of guilt if you didn't—it was your choice. There was no requiring it of you. Here's what's for you, here's what you have to do. You don't *have* to do it, but if you're going to follow me this is the way it is. Now, what would the Jesus of the Gospel of Mark say?

"And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" (Mark 10:17).

Now, notice in this story that the initiative *lies with the man*.

continued on page 5 . . .

Out of Darkness
continued from page 4 . . .

“And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honor thy father and mother” (Mark 10:18-19).

Now, this is fascinating. It does not involve any *special revelation*. He said, “*You know* the commandments.” So I can say that if I want to know what God has to say to me, all I’ve got to do is read what has been written down. If I won’t do that, what’s the point in telling me anything else?

“And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions” (Mark 10:20-22).

Now, what’s important about this is: the choice was *left to him*. He could accept or decline. And Jesus did not put this to him in a way designed to make him feel guilty. And, I think, this is what troubles me about Teresa’s Jesus. She desperately wanted his approval, and yet she seems unable to accept that *she had it*. How can I say that she had it? Because it was there in the fruits of her work. Consider what this tiny woman was able to accomplish. She took in hand what Jesus said she should do in the Gospels, and went out to be the agent of it.

So, what do I mean by that? Well, there are three parables in Matthew 25—parables about the last days. It’s the third one I’d like to call to your attention. It begins in verse 31: “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Matthew 25:31-34).

What was the criterion for this separation? What was it that actually qualified these people to receive the Kingdom of God? He tells us: “For I was ahungered, and

ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee ahungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me” (Matthew 25:35-40).

This ministry, of feeding the hungry and clothing the naked, and doing all these things for the poorest of the poor—well, this is what she devoted her life to. She started out as an 18-year-old girl in Calcutta, India, teaching English in school. And she began her Calcutta ministry—to the lepers, to the poverty stricken children of that city—she actually began it singlehanded—all alone.

And after all of her life’s work, she ended up with a broad, wide ministry, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nobel Prize. But what would have been far more of a prize to her was that she saved lives and earned the eternal gratitude of the children, the lepers, and the poor of Calcutta. I can’t believe that she thought she did that herself. Could she not see God’s approval in the faces of the children? I don’t know what to think of her, and I can’t judge her. I only speak of her to help those people who have experienced this “dark night of the soul.”

Is it possible, then, to feel joy even in the struggle? And how can one be full of love and not full of joy at the same time? I have to resist psychoanalyzing this woman because I’m not qualified. But what she seems to be looking for is to be *wanted* by someone. This expression of her haunts me, she says, “The more I want him, the less I am wanted by him.” I can’t understand this because I have never felt unwanted by God. And I can’t help wondering: What was she looking for?

One of the reviewers of Teresa’s writings said “This is the way of the pilgrim—to double down, always, on the bet that God is manifest and real.” In current terms we would say that the way of the pilgrim is to go “all in.” And this is what Os Guinness was driving at in his book, *In Two Minds*. I may have my doubts, but I am going to place my trust in him. Like the Hebrew children who faced the fiery furnace told the king, “If it

continued on page 8 . . .

The 2017 LBL Feast Site in the Rearview Mirror

By Skip Martin

"Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!" (Psalm 133:1).

The 2017 Kentucky Land Between the Lakes (LBL) Family Feast was a huge hit with folks young and old. This Friends and Family Cooperative Feast site was co-hosted by The Church of God International and Christian Educational Ministries. We were joined with several members of the United Church of God and various Independent Churches of God to worship and fellowship in a beautiful setting amidst the warm love, hospitality, laughter and enjoyment that comes when God's people get together at his appointed times to worship and rejoice before him!

Our Family & Friends Feast site provided a variety of studies, seminars, and learning opportunities that appealed to many different biblical interests and age levels for the 287 registered attendees. A two-part seminar given by Ben Eison on *Defending the Faith* was of particular interest to the teens and young adults because it was a topic they had requested the previous year. Sabbath School/YEA classes were provided for children ages three through 11.

Fellowship opportunities were endless, beginning with a fellowship meal for the entire congregation, followed by an evening of praise and worship led by the "Fellowship of the Word" band. Family and youth activities were planned many afternoons and evenings, with recreation attractions within minutes of our worship services auditorium. Families could participate

in hiking, laser tag, zip-lining, go carts, a corn maze, a Civil War site, a buffalo ranch, an 1800s local town re-enactment, a country music show, horseback riding, fishing, and golfing.

The Convention Center, which was available to us 24/7, hosted an abundant array of fellowship events, from uplifting and inspiring worship services, to hysterical and fun family games, and informative seminars that engendered spiritual discussions, some which went right up until sunrise!

The brethren were unified by the Spirit, so we're already planning on doing it again! Plans are underway and more brethren from different congregations are planning to join us as word of the joy, fun, inspiration and celebration the people of God enjoyed at Kentucky Lake continues to be shared.

The 2018 Family and Friends Feast will again be held at Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park in Western Kentucky and is a convenient location for many who live in the Central U.S.

Accommodations and lodging at the Park and in the area feature everything for nearly every budget. From camping to condominiums, from executive cottages to motels—this area has it all, conveniently located close to the convention center.

Come join us at the Kentucky Dam Village State Park for another fun and edifying Feast in 2018.



Radio Broadcasts Online at OnePlace.com

OnePlace.com is a premier internet provider of online Christian radio broadcasts and programs. Listen to your favorite Christian speakers, authors, and pastors including Ronald L. Dart, and many more. Stay connected with your favorite radio broadcast ministries through daily devotional newsletters and download their latest programs to your MP3 player. Want to take Christian radio programs on the go? Listen to today's broadcast using the OnePlace.com Christian Radio Programs & Sermons iPhone application! Now available for free download through the Apple iTunes store.

Grow in your walk with Jesus Christ, be encouraged in your faith, and build your knowledge of the Bible with OnePlace.com Christian radio programs.

OnePlace.com is one of the most productive broadcast channels we use. So far in 2017 there have been 11,830 visits to Born to Win messages from the USA and 1499 visits from 99 other countries. The countries with the highest response rates are Philippines, India, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, South Africa and Nigeria. They are helping us take the Gospel around the world.

Press Release

The Board of Trustees of Christian Educational Ministries, headquartered in Whitehouse, Texas, is pleased to announce the appointment of Larry S. Watkins as Vice President and General Manager, effective October 16, 2017.

Mr. Watkins, who had retired from CEM in January of 2011, will be responsible for all ongoing operations of the ministry and will assume duties he previously held prior to his retirement.

Christian Educational Ministries was founded by Ronald L. Dart and Allie Dart and Larry S. Watkins on November 9, 1995, to fulfill the great commission of Matthew 28:18-20, and to provide services in the form of training for personal

evangelism, the provision of Christian literature, periodicals, and audio-visual materials as a Christian outreach program to persons of all faiths, and to assist churches and individual Christians in finding affiliations with other like-minded persons and congregations.

Christian Educational Ministries is the sponsor of the syndicated *Born to Win* radio program, a Ronald L. Dart ministry, which currently broadcasts on dozens of stations both in the U.S. and internationally.

The ministry plans to continue all of its current services as a Christian outreach and to expand its presence on social media and its collaboration with other ministries and churches.

2017 CEM Festival Cruise - Rejoicing in Paradise!

By Marla Prouty

For the 2017 CEM Festival Cruise out of Galveston, Texas, a small but mighty group of about 21 people gathered to rejoice, hear messages, and praise God aboard the Royal Caribbean MS *Liberty of the Seas* ship. God was amazing in putting the details together for this unique cruise. We were assured that the Western Caribbean rarely gets the hurricanes like the islands most recently hit, so we bravely boarded on Sunday, October 8, 2017, after spending the first three days of the Feast with our spiritual brothers and sisters from the House of God church in Galveston. The ship turned out to be as solid as a giant building holding over 3,000 passengers and over 1,300 crew, and being handicap-friendly, with an elevator that went 15 floors. Even a member with a walker was able to make it to most venues on board.

Once we boarded and got our rooms, we met for the first evening in our own conference room where we could fellowship, meet members from around the States, and sing and praise God. We were blessed to have an amazingly talented musician from Oregon, Karen Clark, who volunteered for the music program, accompanied hymns, sang special music, and directed our Caribbean Cruisin' Choir (CCC), which sang two songs. Karen said, "This Feast cruise turned out to be so much more than I expected and I was pleasantly surprised!" We had an

Elder from Burleson, Texas, Ken Lewis, who gave a couple of sermons, led hymns, played guitar, and added his baritone to the Caribbean Cruisin' Choir.

One Festival participant, Richard Kennedy, said it well, "Cruising is a wonderful experience, but being able to do it during the Feast made it very special. Services were fine, and the room was comfortable and quite adequate for our group size. The special music was wonderful and our worship services were great. We loved going to Jamaica with the CGI church. It was the highlight of the Feast. We would like to do another Feast cruise."

Among the multiple restaurants aboard we chose from the huge Windjammer buffet, an Asian-infused Jade buffet, an Italian restaurant, a coffee shop, cupcake decorating shop, and pubs. One member who had cruising experience, Robin, from Maryland, said one of the smartest things we could do as was to get a group reservation in the ship's elegant three-story dining room, the Rembrandt Room. We had three-course meals every night with our group, and could catch up on what we had been doing that day. We had two Formal Nights where we got all gussied-up and blinged-out. Our meal usually lasted a couple of hours with stories, laughs, and superb cuisine and service. Our waiter, Jesus, who we

continued on page 8. . .

Out of Darkness continued from page 5 . . .

be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up” (Daniel 3:17-18).

And like Job, who in the midst of his darkest hour said: “Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him . . .” (Job 13:15).

I don’t have to have a good outcome to believe, to trust. That decision does not erase fear. But it gives *meaning* to fear and courage to go forward. Consider what Jesus said at the last supper: “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you” (John 15:13-15).

It seems to me that no greater desire for us could be expressed than the willingness to lay down *his life* for us.

2017 CEM Festival Cruise—Rejoicing in Paradise! continued from page 7 . . .

teased about his name, “Hey-soos,” memorized our full names, and what each of us liked to eat or could not eat. He also did magic tricks for the kids and adults in our group. There were always multiple soups and appetizers, and about ten main dishes to choose from such as steak, the fish of the day, chicken, and prime rib, capped by elegant desserts.

At our first stop, Cozumel, Mexico, we visited some of the shops at the port. Then some members went snorkeling, saw alligators in the wild, went to a private beach with paddle boats, or toured a chocolate factory. Some went to see the ancient Mayan ruins of Chichen Itza, and two ladies went shopping in downtown Cozumel and had a fish pedicure where they laughed out loud from being tickled by the *Garra rufa fish!*

Next day at the beautiful Georgetown, Grand Caymans, we checked out the duty-free shops for great deals, walked through the town, and went snorkeling over a submarine. Some went on an Atlantis submarine to dive 100 feet down. We were enthralled at the intense colors of the sea water, ranging from turquoise and aquamarine to deep cobalt blues. God’s creation at its finest.

On the Last Great Day we were blessed to have a private bus take us to join with the CGI congregation in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, where there were 380 people keeping the Feast. It was an utterly joyous, music-filled day of looking to the Kingdom, and our own Karen Clark, a lyrical soprano, sang *No Night There* as one of the many special music and dancing performances. This was followed by a rousing sermon by Ian Boyne, who saw Ronald Dart as his spiritual mentor over the decades, leading us to visualize a time we will all finally be together. The final hymn, *Till We Meet Again*, always brings tears to the eyes. Afterward the Jamaican brethren fed us a dinner of local jerk chicken, veggies, and a purple and pink celebration cake. All the people mingled and shared histories and where we were from. It turned out there were also members from Toronto, New York, and Chicago gracing the Feast site.

Activities on board the Liberty of the Sea included three swimming pools, wave-rider surfing for the courageous, a water slide, a rock-climbing wall our eight-year-old cousin managed to climb twice, basketball courts, kid-friendly game rooms, an ice-skating rink where we watched an Olympic-quality ice show, as well as a Broadway-class musical, *Saturday Night Fever*. There was country western music, a classical guitarist, and karaoke in the sports bar to entertain in the evening. An art gallery was a creative highlight, and there was a spa and hair salon for pampering.

Every member of the Festival cruise exclaimed about how wonderful this cruise was, especially with the feasting in Jamaica as the high point, and Mark Benton said it was the best Last Great Day in his 59-years of feast-keeping. Charlotte Palmer said, “This cruise and the Jamaican (Last Great Day) experience was such a blessing. . . we were treated like royalty! They thought we blessed them, nay, they blessed us—isn’t it just amazing how God works?”

Born to Win

The Media Ministry Arm of Christian Educational Ministries

PO Box 560 • Whitehouse, Texas 75791
phone: 1-888-BIBLE-44 • **fax:** 903-839-9311
e-mail: adm@borntowin.net
website: www.borntowin.net

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

December Reading Plan

December 1
Ezekiel 25–27
Psalms 120:1–7
Proverbs 28:25–26

December 2
Ezekiel 28–30
Psalms 121:1–8
Proverbs 28:27–28

December 3
Ezekiel 31–32
Psalms 122:1–9
Proverbs 29:1

December 4
Ezekiel 33–35
Psalms 123:1–4
Proverbs 29:2–4

December 5
Ezekiel 36–38
Psalms 124:1–8
Proverbs 29:5–8

December 6
Ezekiel 39–40
Psalms 125:1–5
Proverbs 29:9–11

December 7
Ezekiel 41–43
Psalms 126:1–6
Proverbs 29:12–14

December 8
Ezekiel 44–46
Psalms 127:1–5
Proverbs 29:15–17

December 9
Ezekiel 47–48
Psalms 128:1–6
Proverbs 29:18

December 10
Daniel 1–3
Psalms 129:1–8
Proverbs 29:19–20

December 11
Daniel 4–5
Psalms 130:1–8
Proverbs 29:21–22

December 12
Daniel 6–8
Psalms 131:1–3
Proverbs 29:23

December 13
Daniel 9–12
Psalms 132:1–18
Proverbs 29:24–25

December 14
Hosea 1–4
Psalms 133:1–3
Proverbs 29:26–27

December 15
Hosea 5–9
Psalms 134:1–3
Proverbs 30:1–4

December 16
Hosea 10–14
Psalms 135:1–21
Proverbs 30:5–6

December 17
Joel 1–3
Psalms 136:1–26
Proverbs 30:7–9

December 18
Amos 1–4
Psalms 137:1–9
Proverbs 30:10

December 19
Amos 5–9
Psalms 138:1–8
Proverbs 30:11–14

December 20
Obadiah 1
Psalms 139:1–24
Proverbs 30:15–16

December 21
Jonah 1–4
Psalms 140:1–13
Proverbs 30:17

December 22
Micah 1–4
Psalms 141:1–10
Proverbs 30:18–20

December 23
Micah 5–7
Psalms 142:1–7
Proverbs 30:21–23

December 24
Nahum 1–3
Psalms 143:1–12
Proverbs 30:24–28

December 25
Habakkuk 1–3
Psalms 144:1–15
Proverbs 30:29–31

December 26
Zephaniah 1–3
Psalms 145:1–21
Proverbs 30:32

December 27
Haggai 1–2
Psalms 146:1–10
Proverbs 30:33

December 28
Zechariah 1–5
Psalms 147:1–20
Proverbs 31:1–7

December 29
Zechariah 6–10
Psalms 148:1–14
Proverbs 31:8–9

December 30
Zechariah 11–14
Psalms 149:1–9
Proverbs 31:10–24

December 31
Malachi 1–4
Psalms 150:1–6
Proverbs 31:25–31

**Enjoy your time
in God's Word
this month.**

Watch for an updated newsletter coming soon! It will include articles and updates from all of the Ronald L. Dart Ministries: *Born to Win*, Christian Educational Ministries, YEA, Weekend Bible Study and much, much more. Let us know what you would like to see in our newsletter, call 1-888-BIBLE-44.

Born to Win

PO Box 560
Whitehouse, TX 75791

1.888.BIBLE.44

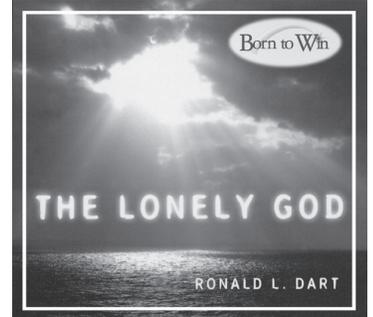
www.borntowin.net

Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery



The Lonely God Audiobook \$11.95

How is it possible that an infinite God should ever find himself lonely or wanting anything? What in the world was He doing when He created this world and put man on it? What is the purpose for mankind? Is it possible to understand God? Yes, only on His own terms, and only by His own revelation. When we try to go beyond what He shows Himself to be, we risk creating God in our own image. But God has not left us in the dark.



The *Lonely God* is about understanding and knowing God as He wishes to be known, not necessarily as we wish to know Him. The picture that emerges can be disturbing. God is not only kind, merciful, forgiving, and longsuffering. He is dangerous. This is why the Bible speaks of the fear of God. This insightful first book by Ronald L. Dart will change the way you think about God. *On Sale Right Now for only \$11.95!* This book is also available in paperback for \$11.95.

Out of Darkness/Born Again? (CD) FREE

Is it possible to love Jesus, to serve him, to do what you think he wants you to do, and yet not know him very well? How does it happen that someone like Mother Teresa who devoted herself to working among the poorest of the poor in the slums of Calcutta, India, did not feel wanted by her Savior, Jesus Christ? Did she really know him? That begs the question, did she really know him? Find out. Order your free copy of this message and receive the bonus message, *Born Again?*, a rare 10 minute program from Ronald L. Dart's archives.

Thank You

CEM continues to need your faithful prayers and support because we are a listener and reader supported ministry and without your kindness and generosity we couldn't make it. We thank God for you and we pray God's blessings on you. We hope you take advantage of our FREE and value priced items. Mr. Dart's gift of teaching can help you grow in the grace and knowledge of God's Word.

ID #: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone #: _____ email: _____

Check here if this is a new address

For credit card orders, call 1.888.BIBLE.44 during business hours, 8:30 AM to 5 PM CT, or return the form below:

Visa MasterCard Discover AMEX

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ / _____ CID #: _____

Signature: _____

	Code	Price	Qty	Amount
Out of Darkness/Born Again	0700DC	Free		
The Lonely God Audiobook	TLGCD	\$11.95		
The Lonely God Paperback	TLG	\$11.95		
Thank you very much for your donation.				

This offer expires December 30, 2017

Subtotal _____

Add 8.25% of subtotal for Texas residents _____

Residents of Canada and Mexico add 15% _____

All other **non-U.S.** countries, add 25% _____

Total Amount Enclosed* _____

***Payments MUST be in U.S. dollars**