

Living to Win

June 15, 2003

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Christian Educational Ministries

Personal from. . . *Ronald L. Dart*

Would You Make a Treaty With the Devil?

Would you make a treaty with the devil? It may be a silly question for you and me, but nations do it all the time. In reading Winston Churchill's "The Gathering Storm" I was struck by how much the nations risked on the treaties they trusted to prevent another terrible world war. In some of their treaties after the first world war, and with Hitler in particular, they made a pact with the devil.

We could argue that no one would knowingly make a deal with the devil because he is a known liar and a sworn adversary. The only reason he would make a deal with you is to do you harm. So why did they do it? What were the things that drove great leaders to make such a terrible mistake?

We know why Germany agreed to the armistice treaty. They wanted to avoid the kind of destruction that finally befell them at the end of WWII. So why did the Allies agree to the armistice? They did it to end the fighting, to stop the bleeding, literally. They had lost millions of men in the flower of their youth, and even in victory would have lost more. Not only that, but the cost of the war was a continuing drag on their economies.

So they entered into treaties with Germany, created the League of

Nations, and held their breath. Men like Winston Churchill (sadly, only a few) recognized the danger. Why would no one listen to them? Why did they continue to trust treaties with the devil? For the simplest of reasons. They were tired, worn down by war and deathly afraid of war. They wanted peace at almost any price, and so they grasped at the tenders of peace and hoped for the best. They got the worst. And they got it because they weren't willing to pay the price of peace.

I tell you all this to underline what fools we can be, even at the highest levels of government. And to consider what we can learn from their experiences. While we would never make an outright deal with the devil, we are all too willing to make compromises with this world *for the same reasons* Britain and France made a deal with Hitler. We are tired. We are afraid. And we don't want to pay the continuing cost of liberty.

And while we wouldn't make a deal with the devil, we might well make a deal with some of his minions. Why? Because we are tired of the struggle. When Jesus entered His struggle with the devil, He was already worn down by 40 days of fasting. It is almost as

though He understood how tired we might be when our temptation comes and it was necessary for Him to fight the same battle. What we need to remember is that even when we are tired, we still have to stay the course. We can't afford to faint in the days of adversity.

To understand what all this means to you as a person, request a *free* tape of a sermon I recently gave in Springfield, Missouri titled, "A Treaty With the Devil." All you have to do is check the box on the enclosed card and return it to us. We have given you a self addressed envelope to make it easy because we want you have this message.

May God continue to strengthen you and bless you in the struggles of your life.

In Christ's Service,
Ronald L. Dart

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We're Looking For A Few Good Men!

By Toni Coffee

... And a few good women, too! Our all-volunteer force of YEA instructors and assistants need some additional recruits to serve a tour of duty at Ft. Walton Beach. The duty isn't a bit hazardous – it's just a lot of highly rewarding participation in a vital part of the Feast of Tabernacles. For six days during the Feast, your help is needed for leading our youth to a better understanding of God and love for Christ as their Savior.

We need additional volunteers, both men and women, to complete our roster. We especially need men who are willing to dedicate a few hours of their Festival time to providing godly, masculine role models for our youth. Husband and wives working together as a team would be especially welcome. Because of the growth in our dynamic YEA classes at last year's Festival, we are planning on having two classes for Beginners (ages 3 to 5) and Primaries (ages 6 to 8). We need both lead instructors and assistants for these and other age groups.

YEA (Youth Educational Adventures) classes provide structured, relevant education for our young people at the Festival. These YEA Feast classes are especially important for our youth, many of whom do not have any other opportunities during the year to fellowship with like-minded believers in an enjoyable, supportive environment. At CEM, we make extensive efforts to be sure that the Festival is a high-point of the year for every child and teenager.

Enlist now! You can be a hero in the fight for biblical literacy! Contact Toni Coffee at 903-582-9328 or e-mail her at tjcoffee@903internet.

Calling All Young People!

(Big ones and little ones. . .)

By Billy Richardson

An exciting Youth Day program is being planned for the fast approaching 2003 Feast! This is the perfect time to use your special talents and serve God by volunteering to help with this program.

We need boys and girls to give pre-written presentations about the young people in the Bible. If you are willing to do this and are in the 12 through 19 year old age group, please contact us immediately. We can get the material to you well before the Feast, allowing enough time for you to be quite familiar with it. You will have a coach who can work with you to ensure that you feel really good about your Feast presentation.

We're also looking for a song leader for Youth Day. If you have any talent or experience in leading songs at church or at school, please let us know as soon as possible.

Special music is always a big success during the Youth Day program. If you can sing or play a musical instrument, solo or in a group, we also want to hear from you soon. We especially need a pianist and a trumpet player, but we welcome other instrumentalists as well.

Are you willing to give an opening or closing prayer? Your sincerity is needed.

The CEM Feast is unique in its support and dedication to young people, and each year workers devote themselves to making the Youth Day Program better than ever. YOU are the YOUth needed to accomplish this. Please step forward and help make this program the best – with your talents and with your willingness to serve! Contact: Billy Richardson at wdr@bellsouth.net or 901-360-8679 (Home), 901-240-1982 (Cell), 901-365-2442 (FAX).

Curtains Up!

By Joan Osborn

Are you ready for the Variety Show at the 2003 Fall Festival in Ft. Walton Beach? Hold on to your hats because here it comes and *your* participation is requested. Those of you who attended or performed last year know what a great time we had despite the inclement weather. We are looking forward to another fantastic show this year!

The theme for the 2003 Variety Show will be, "A Broadway Review." Your act doesn't have to follow the theme, but it offers great opportunities for song and dance music. So whatever your particular talent is, get ready to share it with others at the Festival. If you're interested in participating in this event, contact Jeff or Joan Osborn at 765-246-5582 or e-mail jmosborn@tds.net or jaosborn@tds.net.

Top Ten Reasons To Volunteer for the Feast Choir

By Sheila Bernardo

10. You may carry a tune in a bucket!
9. To the stage, *You'll Never Walk Alone!*
8. You won't be *Singing In The Rain!*
7. *One Day*, off for Youth Day and *One Day* off for Praise Worship singing!
6. You won't be just whistling *Dixie!*
5. We will need Tenor so voices in each section!
4. It won't be just Hymn singing, her gets to sing, too!
3. You will *Gather Together* with others who love to sing!
2. The *Church is One Sound-station!*
1. You will a choir a taste for inspirational singing!

All hamming-it-up aside (for now) . . . as this is being written preparations are being made for the Feast choir. We hope that you will give serious thought to participating this year.

Here's a checklist so that you will know if should join us in assembling a Joy-full sounding festival choir:

- ◆ We need Sopranos, altos, tenors and basses – at least ten of each. More would be terrific!
- ◆ No previous choir experience is necessary.
- ◆ Ability to sight-read music is very helpful, but definitely not required.
- ◆ You need a desire to worship and praise God in song.
- ◆ You need a desire to help.
- ◆ We need a commitment from you to practice during and prior to arriving at the Feast.
- ◆ You need the ability to sing on pitch.

We will provide music selections that are straight forward and uncomplicated, music packets with vocal parts on audio tape for you to practice, choir robes, and a music notebook with all the necessary singing items included. You will receive this at your first practice session. Check CEM's website for further details. If you are interested in sing in the festival choir, call Sheila Bernardo at 630-322-8132 by the middle of June.

OUTSTANDING FEAST SEMINARS PLANNED!

FOT attendees at the CEMFeast site in 2003 can look forward to the most varied Seminar program in years. Feast-goers can choose from three different 45 minute seminars held each morning before the regular worship service, during the same time as the Youth Program classes. Unlike previous years, these classes will be in the same building as the main service, so there will be no running around hunting for classrooms!

Seminars planned include:

- ◆ A slide show presentation by Terry Gray on "Our Expanding Universe: An Eternity of Stars."
- ◆ An interactive session on developing Home Fellowship groups by Bill Stough.
- ◆ An interactive session on women of Faith, from Bible to modern times, by Scarlett Stough.
- ◆ An interactive inspirational session on seeing the love of God in the good times and bad by Wendy Granberg.
- ◆ A six-session series on the Old Testament by Mike Linacre, designed to build upon Ron Dart's Internet Online Old Testament Survey class.
- ◆ A four-session series of interactive discussion sessions by Ron Smith designed for post-high school young adults.
- ◆ A session on developing Christian websites by Nancy Vandemark.
- ◆ A session on personal and small group evangelism and discipling by Pam Dewey.
- ◆ A session on personal self-improvement by Trish Svehla.
- ◆ Last year's storm-cancelled session by Larry Watkins on, "Is God the Author of Sexuality?"

More details to come!

Calendar Of Events

July 19th - 20th - Christian Renewal Conference, Chicago Illinois

There will be a Christian Renewal Conference in Chicago, IL from July 19 through July 20th. Speakers include Ronald L. Dart, Ken Svehla, David Havir, and Harold Cormany. More information will follow soon. See the CEM website at www.cemnetwork.com.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED APRIL 30, 2003

RECEIPTS	
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$267658.63
CEM BOOKSTORE	24201.25
CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS	772.52
INTEREST INCOME	1417.64
	<u>\$294050.04</u>
EXPENSES:	
A/V SUPPLIES	\$ 5935.04
RENTS	9327.45
OFFICE & ADM. EXPENSES	4240.18
MAILING EXPENSES	3189.69
POSTAGE	17761.00
PRINTING	11296.20
RADIO EXPENSES	147534.17
TELEPHONE & UTILITIES	2472.28
YOUTH MINISTRIES	7490.91
CONFERENCES	593.24
CEM BOOKSTORE	2181.65
COMP. & WEB EXPENSES	3373.74
FOREIGN OPERATIONS	1647.63
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	10021.54
WAGES & PAYROLL TAXES	79152.79
	<u>306217.51</u>
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	<u>306217.51</u>
DECREASE IN FUND BALANCE	(\$ 12167.47)



Tune in for the latest weekly broadcast.

June 14 - June 20

Christian Origins 96

June 21 - June 27

Plague 2015

June 28 - July 4

Burden of Babylon

July 5 - July 11

American Prophets

July 12 - July 18

Christian Holidays I

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