

Living to Win

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Personal from . . .

Ronald L. Dart

Let the Prophets Speak

If God were to send a prophet to us today, what would he have to say? What would his message be? In the first place, the mere presence of a prophet is reason to become apprehensive. God does not usually send a prophet to tell us how well we are doing. He figures when we do things right, we aren't really earning any points. We are just doing the best thing for ourselves. There is no reason to pat us on the head. I think if God actually sent a prophet, he might say something like this:

"Thus saith the Lord, the Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth who gave you this good land. You have become incredibly rich. There has never been a nation as rich as you have been, and you never ask where it comes from? You never ask, 'Why do we have all this while the rest of the world goes hungry.' The rest of the world can only imagine how wealthy you are and how you live. Even your poor are rich by their standards.

"Do you remember what I said long ago to a people just like you? I said that it would come to pass that if they would listen to me carefully, and observe all my commandments attentively, that the Lord their God would set them on high above all the nations of the earth. I said that a great mass of blessings would come on you if you would just listen to the Lord your God.

"And just *look* at where *you* are today. You stand alone as the world's only superpower and you are wealthy beyond the imaginations of most of the world's peoples. I said I would establish you as a special people to myself, a people set apart if you would keep my commandments and walk in my ways. I said that

all the people of the earth would see that you are my people and that they would be afraid of you.

"I said I would make you plenteous in goods, and look at you now. You have so many goods that they have spilled over into the houses of the poor. You have so much food that you are becoming obese. I said that I would open to you my good treasure. You would get rain when you need it. You would be able to lend to all nations. And look what you have been able to do in what you call foreign aid. Just imagine if all those nations knew that I am your God.

"I said that I would make you the head and not the tail. That you would always come out on top and not beneath. All this if you would only listen to the commandments of the Lord your God.

"Do you remember that I said all those things? But then I went on to say what would happen if they didn't obey my laws. And

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Make a Difference!

If you're currently looking for new ministry opportunities, consider helping CEM and the *Born to Win* broadcast. Among our greatest financial challenges are large broadcasting expenses. Every dollar helps in getting the Gospel out. We invite you to share in this ministry. Your donations can make a real difference!

Meet CEM's Staff

Larry Watkins

Larry Watkins has been with CEM since its inception. He holds a bachelor of science degree in accounting from Mississippi State University, a bachelor of arts degree from Ambassador College, majoring in theology, and an M.B.A. from Stephen F. Austin University.

Larry and his wife Kitty were married in 1968, and are the parents of two sons and a daughter. They are also the proud grandparents of Zachary, Keelie, and baby Faith. In addition, Kitty leads the busy life of an elementary school librarian. Larry also stays busy as CEM's contact man for radio stations, office manager, and business manager.

Larry has invested 20 plus years in the lives of teens, working in summer camps. He is a member of the Tyler Church of God and is often found behind its pulpit preaching, teaching, and leading congregational singing.

Faye Brown

If you've seen a sticky label on one of your letters from CEM with a warm little note, it was most likely from Faye. She has been with CEM from its earliest years and is secretary to Mr. Dart. Faye's responsibilities at CEM are as varied as they are essential. In addition to transcribing Mr. Dart's notes, she is a bookkeeper, keeps up with the prison ministry correspondence, answers phones, and helps out in other areas when needed.

Faye has been married to Buddy Brown for 24 years, and they are parents of three sons and nine grandchildren. Faye and Buddy are active members of the Tyler Church of God, and if there is a potluck dinner to be planned, Faye will be hard at work. In 1986 Faye and Buddy transferred from El Paso to Irving for the sole purpose of attending the Church of God. Faye has proved her love for God and His work by faithfully serving the needs of CEM and those who rely on us.

Time to Plan Your Vacation Bible School

Few things have more potential for building your local church than a Vacation Bible School (VBS) that is done right. It is one of the greatest family outreaches your church can do. If you want to jump start your church's growth, go to LifeWay, or another Christian bookstore and look over the many brochures they will have for VBS kits. There may be workshops you can attend that will not only inspire you, but will give you the know-how.

Most of the time these VBS kits are worth every dime they cost and will save you hours of creative planning, writing lessons, and advertisements. Organizations that put out the VBS kits have been doing this for years and know exactly how to create a program that will attract kids. They follow a theme kids will love. Everything in the kits is attractively done in full color. They are jam-packed with such things as instructions, posters, registration cards, lessons, music cassette, video, and more.

For church growth to come from a VBS requires unrelenting follow-up. There needs to be a closing VBS program where the parents are invited. The children who attend should be visited in their home soon after the VBS is over with a goal of enrolling them in YEA Sabbath School classes. Parents should be invited to church, Bible studies, potlucks, church picnics, given appropriate *Born to Win* tapes, and told when and where they can hear the broadcast.

Vacation Bible School offers wonderful flexibility. It can be held in the morning, afternoon, or evening. Pick a time that fits your church and start today planning one. It can be held indoors or outside. Get your group together, build a fire under them, and don't let any grass grow under your feet before you start planning this summer's VBS. Pray for God's blessings, follow through with every family, and watch your church grow.

Prophets continued from page 1 . . .

because I have not changed, I can say the same thing to you today” (This is paraphrased for us today from Deuteronomy 28).

“Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things; Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee” (Deuteronomy 28:47-48).

It seems impossible, doesn't it? But it seemed just as impossible to them. And it happened to them anyway.

I think that might well be God's message to us today, but how is it possible for a nation so great to have so great a fall? It is easier than you might think. For it is the wealth, the power, the greatness that contains the seeds of its own destruction.

In a recent presentation, I went on to fully develop what a modern prophet, who came in the spirit of Hosea and Amos, might have to say to this nation. It is shocking how close they come to describing our nation right now. And what is even more sobering is this simple fact: God does not change.

I would like to send you a *FREE* cassette tape of this message, “*Let the Prophets Speak*”. It is a serious warning to our nation about the direction we are headed. You won't want to miss it. Just check the box on the enclosed card and return it to us.

And don't forget to pray for our leaders and our people. God may send us a wake up call, but it will be a lot less painful if we listen to Him before that.

With deep concern,

Ronald L. Dart

YEA Needs Men and Women

Last year's fantastically high attendance showed how much the well-planned YEA Feast classes are valued. We need *you* to support the YEA Feast classes again this year by enrolling your children and teenagers, volunteering to teach or assist, and telling everyone how wonderful the youth classes are. The new Emerald Coast Conference Center proved to be an answer to prayer. There will be no more searching for classrooms in a different building. Bright, clean, large rooms under one roof make holding classes enjoyable for teachers and our young people. Each room will be beautifully decorated and marked for easy identification. Children and teen classes start at 9:30 a.m., allowing parents to attend seminars held at the same time.

There are Beginners classes for ages 3 through 5, Primary classes for ages 6 through 8, Junior classes for ages 9 through 11, Intermediate classes for ages 12 through 15, and Senior Teens classes for ages 16 through 19. Classes will be held on Friday, October 1, and Sunday, October 3, through Wednesday, October 6, 2004.

Men and women volunteers are needed to teach and assist in every class. Often today's family does not have a father, at least one male role model is needed in every classroom. A love of the children, a desire to show them the love of Christ, and a willingness to give of your time and effort to instill God's love in every student are the only requirements. If you would like to volunteer, please contact me, Sharon Richardson, as soon as possible at Shay100@bellsouth.net, 901-366-5781, 5026 Fairbrook Ave., Memphis, TN 38118-2527. Thank you!

Letters to the Editor

Ronald Dart has incredible, sensible insights into God's word. He brings it alive and gives it the meaning it was meant to have. He makes one hungry for more with his quiet, reasonable approach to the scriptures. I have gained much from his preaching on 670 KLTT radio. Thank you so much, TS

I want to tell you that you have a great discernment about the Scriptures. I have finished listening to Christian Holidays Series and I am marveled. Of course I read the Bible for itself but I am using your material for study. Thank you so much for such a great work and dedication. I can see things a lot clear now. WB

Summer Camp 2004

This year's summer camp will be held from June 20 to June 27 at Camp Wewoka Woods, near Wewoka, Oklahoma. A letter will be sent to our teen mailing list. If you or a teen you know does not receive it, write or e-mail lsw@cemnetwork.com for camp information.

The tuition fee will remain at \$250. A camp scholarship fund has been established to prevent teens from being unable to attend because of a lack of funds. Anyone who can and would like to help sponsor a deserving young person come to camp can make a special contribution to this tax deductible scholarship fund used exclusively for this purpose.

Summer camp is open to all teens regardless of their church affiliation, or that of their parents, who have reached their 13th birthday by the time camp ends and who have not yet reached their 19th birthday.

We will have water skiing, tubing, swimming, horseback riding, group initiatives, volleyball and basketball, dances, and the annual camp fun show. Swing dancing classes will continue this year and hopefully add even more!

Please spread the word. Tell anyone you think would enjoy coming to camp to call, write or e-mail for an application. And if you are able, please help a deserving young person come to camp by making a small donation to the camp scholarship fund.

Youth Day Talent Needed!

Looking for an opportunity to use your talents to praise God during the Youth Day presentation? Great! We are looking for you! Remember the parable of the talents. . . don't bury yours! We need two teens willing to give testimonies and talented young people for special music who can sing, play the piano, or another instrument. EVERY youth voice is needed in one of the three choirs. Here is an opportunity for you to share your talents and gain experience on stage. Contact Brenda Ross, Worship Service Division Leader, at brenda@cgmusic.com and give your name, age, and area of interest before May 1, 2004. I look forward to hearing from you.

In our Youth Day skit, we will be hearing an amazing story from eye witnesses who were touched by Jesus' presence during His time here on earth. We are very excited about this skit, which will be written and produced by members and graduates of the Senior Teens YEA program! We need actors, props, people, stage hands, assistant directors, and more. Any young person who has not already been contacted, but is interested in being a part of the skit, should contact Skit Division Leaders Chris and Lisa Gregor at c.l.gregor@mindspring.com. Richard Kisel, the Youth Day Team Leader should be copied on all e-mails at richard-k@comcast.net

Radio Update

KDNS	Glen Elders, KS	9:05 a.m.	Sun.	94.1 FM
KHIB	www.khib.tv	2:30 p.m.	Mon.-Fri.	Internet Only
WVTJ	Pensacola, FL	7:00 a.m.	Mon.-Fri.	610 AM

Calendar of Events

Independence, MO - May 29th and 30th, 2004 at 2 p.m. at the South Crysler Community of Christ Church, 3100 South Crysler, Independence, Mo. A potluck meal will follow both services. For more information call Paula Frazee at 816-461-3252 or Larry Watkins at 1-888-BIBLE-44.

Terre Haute, IN - June 26, 27, 2004. Watch CEM's website and the next *Living to Win* for details.

Chicago, IL - July 17, 18, 2004. Watch CEM's website and the next *Living to Win* for details.

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