

Personal from. . .

**Ronald L. Dart**

## The Prince of Death

I got an e-mail from a friend in Australia last week who asked me a rather chilling question. He reminded me of something I had said earlier about the region of Iraq and Iran. In a sermon on prophecy, I spoke of the vision recorded in Daniel 10. It wasn't so much the object of the prophecy that fascinated me. It was an aside from the bright, powerful angel that brought it.

Daniel was, at that time in Babylon, which was in the greater region of Persia. The angel had been sent to him three weeks earlier, but he had been withstood by one he called "The Prince of Persia." He had not been able to fight his way in alone, but had to have help from another Archangel named Michael. How strange is this? It sounds like there is a spiritual world adjacent to our own in which great battles can be fought while we peacefully go about our lives.

My friend reminded me of this and observed that the Prince of Persia was dominating the region

we now call Iraq. What sent a chill down my spine was his question: Do you think it is pertinent that our boys are fighting this great evil right in the kingdom of the devil himself? He wondered if that explained some of the craziness we were seeing in Iraq. I wondered too. I wondered if our Marines are fighting the devil right on his home turf.

I fear wondering about it is all we can do, because there is no way of proving that. And yet, there is something very disturbing about the *pervasive spirit of hatred* that exists in the world. It cannot be ignored. Where does this come from?

I couldn't help thinking of a

short segment found in the Book of Revelation. There was war in heaven, John said. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels. The devil lost the war and was cast down into the earth. Then comes this frightening warning: "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time" (Revelation 12:12).

You need no special insight to realize that there is an irrational, insane, powerful mind at large in the world. I know, it's not chic or fashionable to speak of a personal devil, but that is exactly what we are dealing with. And you can't make a serious claim to believe the Bible if you doubt the existence of a personal devil—a conscious, deliberate adversary of life and truth.

When Jesus said that Satan

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### Charitable Giving

Many options are available that can increase your contributions to charities. Some strategies are simple, others require the assistance of professionals such as an attorney or tax advisor. You don't need to be wealthy to help. In fact, you can even make substantial, tax-favored gifts without taking a hefty bite out of your current income or assets. All it takes is a little planning. As a part of your team, CEM stands ready to help you make charitable gifts that may provide these benefits and more. These are explained on page 3.

## Romania Mission

By Aaron Lynch

*CEM's graphic designer resigned late last year. We advertized in the paper for her replacement and Aaron Lynch responded to that ad. While interviewing him, he said that working for a ministry was more important to him than the amount of money he made. He moved to Texas with his wife and daughter not long before this to help with Calvary Commission in Lindale. It was through this ministry that he was offered the opportunity to go on this trip to Romania. They needed him to better serve these people because he spoke Romania, which he had taught himself.*

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Recently I went on a short-term missions trip to the Eastern European country of Romania. Romania is a country of about 23 million people, mostly orthodox in faith, and a people who suffered under a brutal Communist dictatorship from 1947-1989.

After an 18 hour journey of connecting flights, we landed in Romania's capital city of Bucharest, located in the southeastern part of the country. We then loaded in a van and started our six hour drive to Sibiu, a city located in the heart of the Transylvanian Alps. Our driver began to give us the narrated tour, but it wasn't the kind you would think. We would pass the massive, old buildings that looked completely abandoned, and he would say; "over here is where a Communist-ran state orphanage used to be". We would then hear the stories of how the kids were forced to go there, and most of them were raped and beaten almost daily. The dictator of that time, Nicolae Ceausescu, demanded that all children who had existing or who were born with any kind of disability or cosmetic abnormalities such as a hair lip, or a lazy eye, be taken from their parents and put in these institutions which eventually became known as madhouses.

We arrived in Sibiu, our first stop, where we stayed for four days. Our goal in coming here was to encourage and strengthen the local church that some of our missionaries had planted years earlier. I attended a pastors meeting one Saturday afternoon, where I saw 200 local pastors from every kind of background (Baptist, Methodist, Pentecostal) come together and form plans and strategies on how to reach their city for Christ. You would hear statements like; "We wanted to start a ministry to the Gypsy population in this community, but now that we have found out that our Methodist brothers have a successful work already going, well then we will just give them our resources and workers we had planned to use, and they will work under them."

I began to see that at some point in our American thinking and our church communities, we have somehow missed it somewhere along the way. The Romanians had been persecuted for over 50 years. It didn't matter to them that they all had different backgrounds and different denominational name tags, they focused on the one thing that mattered, and that was winning their city for Christ and Him alone.

After our four days in Sibiu, we traveled on to our last stop- Timisoara, Romania. Timisoara is located in the southwestern part of the country, and is the city where the revolution began. It is a town of deep pride, and appreciation for their city, and if some of you have been here it's much like how Texas is in the US. We ministered in the prisons, and held prison ministry training conferences. Overall we were able to speak more than 39 hours in Timisoara, at various engagements. Although I initially came to Romania to minister, more often I found myself being ministered to. What do you say to a people who have been persecuted for over a half century? Where in a lot of cases whole families were martyred for there faith. Yet their faith has not weakened and there commitment has not wavered. As I returned to Texas, I found myself somehow disoriented in my understanding of this modern thing we call "church" and what it really means. In most cases I felt our Romanian brothers and sisters somehow had gotten a hold of God in a way we have not yet corporately done. And to the Kingdom's benefit, they are seeing their country being transformed on a grand scale.

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deceives the whole world, He wasn't exaggerating. The world we live in is infested with evil and it is manifested nearly everywhere we look. It is characterized by lies and deception. And by the *murderous* destruction of life. If you think this evil can be defeated by reason, you are dreaming.

There is a scripture in Hebrews that I have read many times before, but somehow I had managed to overlook the importance of a *single phrase*:

“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy **him that had the power of death**, that is, the devil” (Hebrews 2:14).

In addition to being the prince of the power of the air, the prince of this world, or the prince of darkness, we can now add another title for the devil: The prince of death.

And as I thought on this, it suddenly gave a whole new meaning to a familiar phrase from the Lord's prayer: “Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” In the Greek, it is, “Deliver us from the evil.” Some translations have, “from the evil *one*,” and I think this is the sense Jesus intended. There is a personal devil, who holds *the power of death*. He is a murderer from the beginning, and he is the author of the culture of death.

Our boys in Iraq right now are engaged in a life or death struggle with the devil. It is exactly the same struggle as WWII, with the same enemy. And we will either win against him or die. True, our weapons are not carnal. We are left to fight this war with tanks because we have long ago rejected God as the one who fights our battles. But now we are left with the alternatives of fighting with what we have or becoming slaves.

That is why I raise no objection to the Iraq war. The only alternative I have to offer is one the nation will not accept. All I can do is read to them from the scriptures:

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget

thy children. As they were increased, so they sinned against me: therefore will I change their glory into shame” (Hosea 4:6-7).

This is where we are. And the only remedy is national repentance. It may not happen, but those of us who know, cannot keep silent. I had much more to say about this in a recent *Born to Win* presentation that I want to send to you right now. It will play on the air, between now and the election, but I don't want you to wait. To receive a *FREE* cassette tape of the program titled, “The Prince of Death,” just check and return the card we enclosed with this newsletter.

God be with you in these dangerous times and deliver you from the evil one.

Praying for your safety,

*Ronald L. Dart*

P.S. I think you will agree that this message needs as wide a distribution as possible, so if you can help, please do. There is no charge for this tape. It is free. But your contribution will make a difference

## Letters to the Editor

“I've been what you would call an 'avid listener' to your show for quite some time on WZJY 1480 AM here in Charleston. So far, I have ordered a couple of collections of your broadcasts on tape, and I'm planning on ordering several more. SC

“I've found your teaching style to be a brilliant mix of scholastic and 'common-sense' practical. . . a style that everyone can enjoy and learn from no matter where they are in their Bible studies. . . , Every time I hear you say, 'Well, now, wait a minute. . . ', I know I'm about to learn something new!” WV

“It has been my pleasure to help support the '*Born to Win*' program. I listen almost every day, and am glad to be able to contribute to such a fine ministry. May God bless you in continuing to spread the Good News.” MK

### Mini-Feast Insights and More

The Sabbath before the Passover, dedicated people from Washington state, Oregon, Ohio, Texas, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, and Bermuda, gathered in Destin, Florida to delve deeper into God's words during this spring Mini-Feast. Everyone had the opportunity to ask Ron Dart questions, gain knowledge, and grow in their Bible understanding through his in-depth answers. Insightful lessons about Judas was his timely message at one seminar. On the Sabbath we were treated to a sermon that showed us what those who do not keep the holy days are missing. A much greater crowd than expected showed up to observe the Passover. Then, the next night, a cheerful group gathered at *O'Charlies* to celebrate the Night to be Much Observed with great food and fellowship. The afternoon of the First Day of Unleavened Bread, Ron Dart took us step-by-step through the events of the first Passover and the Exodus.

One of the highlights of this spring Mini-Feast was the baptism of a young lady who had driven all the way from Oregon for this occasion. We welcome her into God's family.

Gary and Shirley George, and Carl and Pat Dillenback hosted this Mini-Feast and made it possible for so many to enjoy, learn, fellowship, grow, and rejoice. Thanks to all of you for providing the wherewithal for this opportunity that we hope will become a spring tradition.

On the way back to Tyler, we stopped by Birmingham, AL for

the Sabbath. A warm and hospitable group of good cooks (men and women) rolled out the welcome mat for people far and wide. We were pleased to see so many new faces, from the *Born to Win* broadcast, wanting to find greater biblical understanding and a more effective walk with our Savior. People were able to ask Ron Dart their Bible question in the morning session. An outstanding potluck lunch was served for all to enjoy. Everyone and more came

back for the afternoon worship service to glean a deeper understanding from Ron Dart's sermon about another world that runs side-by-side to our world. Too many people aren't willing to admit there is evil in this world. "Our troops in Iraq are engaged in a fight not just against Saddam's forces, but the devil," Mr. Dart said.

Our cup runs over with joy and gratitude for those who made these days so remarkable!

### *In Memory*

Christian Educational Ministries gratefully acknowledges the generous donation made in loving memory of Bill and Denise Naasz' son, Aaron, who was tragically killed in an accident on April 7, 2004. Our hearts and prayers go out to this family.

Christian Educational Ministries also gratefully acknowledges the generous donation made in loving memory of Hartsel and Nell Godwin. The two of them lived in the Cedar Lake Nursing Home in Malakoff, TX. Hartsel died January 12, 2004 and Nell followed her husband in death on February 9, 2004. The Godwins will be truly missed.

### Calendar of Events

**Independence, MO** - Pentecost weekend, May 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> at the South Chrysler Community Christ Church, 3100 South Chrysler. Services will be conducted each day by Ronald L. Dart at 2 p.m. Snacks and fellowship start at 1 p.m. both days. A potluck meal will be served on the 29<sup>th</sup>. For more information, contact Paula Frazee at [pjcrim@aol.com](mailto:pjcrim@aol.com), or Larry Watkins at the CEM office, 1-888-BIBLE-44.

**Terre Haute, IN** - A Christian Renewal Conference will be held at 1403 Poplar St., Terre Haute, IN at 11 a.m. June 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Ronald L. Dart will speak at 3 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. Sunday. For more information or directions contact Jeff Osborn at [jmosborn@tds.net](mailto:jmosborn@tds.net) or 888-526-5710, or Larry Watkins at [lsw@cemnetwork.com](mailto:lsw@cemnetwork.com).

**Chicago, IL** - A Christian Renewal Conference July 17,18, 2004. More information will be coming soon.

### *Christian Educational Ministries*



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

# Charitable Giving

By Larry Watkins

Chances are, you already share your blessings with others by volunteering your time and talents, and by making financial gifts. Helping others is important to you—it is part of who you are.

Helping others is also the cornerstone of Christian Educational Ministries. From the very beginning, CEM established this as its foundational philosophy. At the same time we know that you want to protect your family while assisting those organizations that mean the most to you. We at CEM stand ready to help you maximize your giving.

The main reason people make charitable gifts is to further the work and support the mission of the organization they give to. But you can receive additional benefits, such as joy, satisfaction, and peace of mind when properly planned gifts significantly help others. In addition to this, your charitable gifts may provide valuable tax advantages. And you may benefit by retaining more of your personal assets while gaining greater financial security for you and your loved ones.

Many options are available that can increase your benevolent contributions to charities. Some strategies are simple, others require the assistance of professionals such as an attorney or tax advisor.

You don't need to be wealthy to help. In fact, you can even make substantial, tax-favored gifts without taking a hefty bite out of your current income or assets. All it takes is a little planning. Each year more people are discovering and taking advantage of the many financial benefits of planned charitable giving. As a part of your team, CEM can help you make charitable gifts that may provide these benefits and more. The following are some of the ways you can contribute to the charity of your choice:

- ▶ **Outright gifts** - You can simply write a check or give cash to an exempt charitable organization and receive a tax deduction, if you itemize deductions on your income tax return.
- ▶ **Will or trust bequests** - You can create a bequest by including a charitable gift provision in your will or trust document. Upon your death, your estate may receive an estate tax charitable deduction for the value of the bequest.
- ▶ **Beneficiary designation gifts** - You can name an exempt organization as the beneficiary of your life insurance, annuity, trust, IRA, or other legal contact. Your estate may receive an estate tax charitable deduction for the value of your assets transferred to the charity after you die.
- ▶ **Life insurance gifts** - You can purchase and give a new contract to a charity, or give an existing contract. The contract's value and premiums, gifted to the charity, may qualify you for an income tax deduction. Upon your death, the insurance proceeds go to the charity.
- ▶ **Investment gifts** - You can transfer your ownership of appreciated investments (i.e., land, real estate, mutual funds, stocks, etc.) to an exempt charity. Generally you can receive a charitable income tax deduction of the market value of the gift you've made while you're living, if you itemize deductions on your income tax return. You may be able to reduce or eliminate significant capital gains and estate taxation through this type of gift as well.
- ▶ **Traditional IRA gift** - With preplanning funds in a traditional IRA can be given at your death to an exempt charity through your IRA beneficiary designation. The IRA funds pass to your designated charity after death, escaping the income taxes due on the remaining funds. And your estate can generally receive a charitable estate tax deduction as well.
- ▶ **Zero estate tax gift** - Your will or trust can be designed to pass along the maximum amount of estate assets to your children after death, estate tax free, through a family testamentary bequest. Typically the amount is equal to the current applicable estate tax exclusion. The remaining estate assets then are transferred to a recognized charity through a charitable bequest, also estate tax free. This plan may result in zero estate tax due.

These are but a few of the many options available to magnify your giving that help both you and your chosen charity. Always consult with legal and tax experts for advice before putting a plan into action or making a significant charitable gift. Lack of proper advice could lead to adverse consequences costing you your tax advantages. Watch future article in the *Living to Win* for other options. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please call Larry Watkins at 1-888-BIBLE-44 or e-mail me at [lsw@cemnetwork.com](mailto:lsw@cemnetwork.com). Many thanks for your continued support.