

Living to Win

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Personal from. . .

Ronald L. Dart

Prophets and Politics

Do you consider yourself a citizen of the United States of America? I will tell you why I ask. Since my recent programs on the theme of freedom, I have had some complaints from listeners and readers about what they call, "dabbling in politics." One was a postcard covered with invective and a condemnation for what he perceived as my support of "Bush's War."

I must say that I am appalled by the lack of understanding of simple civics by so many people in this country who ought to know better. No, I don't mean the person who wrote me the postcard. He was merely parroting what he had heard from some political hack.

Consider this: The President of the United States does not have the authority to wage war. The constitution limits the authority to declare or authorize war to congress. Last year, "The people of the United States in Congress assembled," authorized the use of force in Iraq. Therefore, as a citizen of this country, you are responsible

for this war **even if you did not vote.** In fact, if you did not vote, you may be even *more* responsible than the people who did.

We are getting into the habit of thinking of the government of the United States as though it were someone besides us. It is not. We are a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Therefore, it is not Bush's war, it is our war. So if you would like to chew out someone in government, stand in front of a mirror and preach away. At yourself. As the famous Possum once said, "We have met the enemy and he is us."

So if you hear some talking head on TV pontificating about "Bush's War," you will know that he is either a demagogue or an idiot. It is possible of course to be both.

Now when I consider the broader complaint, that I might be meddling in politics, I have this to say. I am not a prophet. But I can read the prophets, and I have a radio program that is widely listened to these days. And whether I like it or not, I feel an obligation to address the subjects a prophet would address.

Now, does a prophet have any business preaching about politics? Well, anyone who reads the prophets will know immediately that politics was very high on their agenda. It was their duty to speak truth to power. They told the truth to kings, princes, elders, judges, priests, and prophets. In other words, they criticized government and the people engaged in government. You can argue that they didn't take sides in the sense that they belonged to no political party. But it is impossible to argue that they did not take sides on issues before the public. They took God's side on every issue.

Now I have no interest in **engaging** in politics. But com-
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Sponsors are Needed

Opportunities are available for sponsorship of the *Born to Win* broadcast. Most of the stations carrying the *Born to Win* program are sponsored by individuals like you, by groups of individuals, and churches. You can make a difference by putting a daily or weekly broadcast on a station in your area. This increasingly popular program is heard each week by more than 200,000 people. Many are finding their way to God through the *Born to Win* program. If you would like to make a difference, contact Larry Watkins at 1-888-BIBLE 44.

Thought Provoking Seminars

Festival attendees can look forward to a most varied Seminar program. You can choose from three different seminars each morning, during the same time as the YEA classes. All seminars and YEA classes will be in the same building as the main service and will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Emerald Grand Ballroom II

Sunday, October 3

Nurturing Our Sound Mind—Test all things, hold fast that which is good, by Jim Ross.

Tuesday, October 5

Learn how to spread the Gospel overseas through mentoring orphans, by Ron and Cynthia Saladin

Emerald Grand Ballroom III

Friday, October 1

Ministry of Jesus—The seminar will have an interactive, small-group format, by Mike Linacre Ph.D.

Sunday, October 3

The Acts of the Apostles—The seminar will have an interactive, small-group format, by Mike Linacre Ph.D.

Monday, October 4

Paul's Epistles—The seminar will have an interactive, small-group format, by Mike Linacre Ph.D.

Tuesday, October 5

The Epistles in General—The seminar will have an interactive, small-group format by, Mike Linacre Ph.D.

Wednesday, October 6

The Book of Revelation—The seminar will have an interactive, small-group format, by Mike Linacre Ph.D.

Emerald Grand Ballroom IV

Friday, October 1

What the Bible has to say about friends, with the opportunity to meet new ones, by Nancy Vandemark.

Sunday, October 3

Bible Women's Prayer Example—Learn from faithful women the kind of prayer God hears, by Scarlett Stough.

Monday, October 4

End Time Prophecy: Signs of the Times—Examine the credentials, claims, theories, and speculations of the many prophecy pundits of our time, both inside and outside the Sabbatarian Church of God movement, by Pam Dewey.

Tuesday, October 5

Christian Creativity 101—Uncover your God-given talents and explore ways to use them creatively in service to God and others, by Ramona Leiter.

Wednesday, October 6

Times of Refreshing—Insight into innovative and effective ways to use the Sabbath and annual Feast as “tools of evangelism,” by Paul Dewley.

Seminars are subject to change. Check your Feast brochure.

Prophets & Politics, continued

mentary on politics seems to me to be fully justified. I discussed this at length and in detail in a recent sermon. I developed the themes of Elijah, Isaiah, and Jeremiah as they spoke truth to kings, often face to face. But the prophet who strikes this issue most powerfully is Daniel.

Daniel's prayer to God, *from captivity*, addresses the most fundamental principle of politics and the responsibility of the people. He is listed as one of the three most righteous men in the Bible. When he considered where he was and what he was doing, he had to recognize that he could not distance himself from the corruption of the government of his people. The reason? Because the people went into captivity along with the government. This is not what should have been expected if the people were innocent.

In his prayer, Daniel said this: "O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee" (Daniel 9:8). It should be clear enough that this is a political statement. Why? Because it has to do with the government.

Daniel made no attempt to evade responsibility. How could I do less than follow his example? I feel I must accept my responsibility for what is happening in this country. With God as my help and guide, I intend to use the *Born to Win* program to speak truth to power. I will vote in every election. I am 70 years old and so am now exempt from jury duty. But if I am called, I will go and serve. I will condemn the guilty and free the innocent.

I don't know how much of a difference I can make in the big picture. But whatever difference I *can* make, with God as my help, I *will* make. I hope you will do the same.

With hope and fervor to make a difference,

Ronald L. Dart

P.S. For a *free* cassette tape of a sermon addressing this important issue in detail, just check the box on the enclosed card and send it back to us in the envelope we have provided. The title of the sermon is "Prophets and Politics." There is no obligation for receiving this cassette, but we would welcome your contribution to help us take the Gospel of Jesus Christ before this country along with the message of the prophets

Fabulous Fun Show

Jeff and Joan Osborn

Plans are in progress for an out-of-this-world Fun Show for the Feast of Tabernacles 2004. A "Star Wars" theme will pull together the stars of the show. If you'd like to be one of those stars, the time is now to start pulling together your contribution. The show is being expanded this year to showcase a wider variety of talents. Musical acts and comedy routines will be featured as in years past. But if your talent is painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, cartooning, quilt-making, poetry, or other artistic efforts, there will also be an opportunity to display your creations as well! Still photos and video recordings, arts and crafts projects, and poetry readings will be combined into a musical video montage for the big screen as part of the gala evening. This isn't just a showcase for adults and teens, contributions are welcome and encouraged from children of all ages.

Performances and other contributions to the show that fit the sci-fi galactic theme are particularly encouraged—anything from a piano rendition of "Star Dust" to a vocal solo of "Moon River" would be punningly appropriate. But don't worry, our professional staff will be able to weave any act into the theme.

In order to produce the best Fun Show ever, the planning committee requests that all who wish to participate or contribute to the show make arrangements as early as possible before the Feast.

If you would like to perform in the show, please send the details of your proposed contribution immediately to Jeff or Joan Osborn, 110 Westwood Road, Fillmore, IN 46128, 1-888 526-5710, jaosborn@tds.net or jmosborn@tds.net .

In Memory

Billy Richardson, the 22 year old son of Sharon Richardson of Memphis, TN was killed July 12 in a three vehicle accident in Jackson, TN. Billy grew up in the church, attending summer camp and setting a sterling example as a teen. He helped out with Youth Day at the Feast and provided us with the daily PowerPoint announcements. Billy will be greatly missed. Our heartfelt prayers and sympathy are with Sharon. CEM gratefully acknowledges the memorials received in Billy's name.

The Best is Yet to Come

Sharon Richardson

Have you heard that expression before? You'll find how true it is when you attend the YEA classes at Ft. Walton Beach this fall! Each year more and more young people are experiencing the joy of learning God's way in fun and relevant YEA classes. Each year classes get better and better.

Classes will be held on Friday, October 1, and Sunday, October 3 through Wednesday, October 6. Action packed classes address the issues children and teens face at each step of their development.

CEM gives each student a *FREE*, full-color book, filled with age-appropriate lessons, games, and activities. Classrooms are staffed with excellent, well prepared teachers who love their students. Teachers have been preparing for months so that each class will build on the lesson before it. Students will experience the joy that we all look forward to at the Feast of Tabernacles!

Join us each day and see for yourself that the best really is yet to come in YEA classes!



Food, Fun, Fellowship in the Faith

Come join us at 6:00 Friday evening, October 1, for pizza, games, and a chance to get to know other teens (ages 16-19) and early college-aged kids who are attending the Feast in Ft. Walton Beach. **F4** gives you a chance to hang out early in the week, so that you'll know lots of other teens when you attend the other young adult activities later during the Feast!

F4 was a lot of fun last year, with more than 40 people attending. The group brainstormed lots of great ideas about how to make the Feast experience better for kids your age, and one of those was to include informal Bible studies about other topics you're interested in. At **F4**, after you've gotten to know each other a bit and munched on pizza, Chris and Lisa Gregor will facilitate an interactive Bible study as the Sabbath begins. Call us at 770-785-9890 and suggest the subject you want discussed.



Affordable Housing for Every Budget

Have you reserved a place to stay in the Destin/Ft. Walton Beach area while attending the CEM Feast site? Some of the condominiums are filling up, but there are affordable accommodations still available.

The following are management companies offering discounts: Anchors Resorts Realty, 1-800-874-0162; Dale E. Peterson Vacations, 1-800-336-9669; Beacon Resorts, 1-800-451-2343; Abbott Resorts, 1-800-336-4853; and Newman-Dailey, 1-800-225-7652. To get the discount you must tell them that you are with CEM. For a more complete housing package contact CEM at 1-888-BIBLE 44 or check out our website at www.cemnetwork.com.

Calendar of Events

Ft. Walton Beach, FL - Day of Atonement, September 25, at 2:00 p.m. at the Emerald Coast Conference Center, 1250 Miracle Strip Parkway, in the Sunset Room. Contact Gary or Shirley George at 850-837-0485 for information and directions.

Radio Update

Richmond, VA 1330 AM WBTK 5:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m. Mon-Fri

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



Feast of Tabernacles 2004



YEA Feast Classes A Week Long Adventure A Lifelong Impact

See to it that every youth between the ages of three through 19 are in all five no-miss YEA Feast classes. Bring your kids, teens, grandchildren, and friends at 9:30 a.m. Friday, and Sunday through Wednesday for action packed classes, surprises, awards, and fun things to learn and do. Here are the class themes and what your kids will learn each day:

Beginners (ages 3-5) *What Will You Bee?*

Friday: Bee Joyful!
 Sunday: Bee Helpful!
 Monday: Bee Still!
 Tuesday: Bee Kind!
 Wednesday: Bee-lieve!

Intermediates (ages 12-15) *Online*

Friday: Click on Celebrate
 Sunday: Click on Smart Love
 Monday: Click on "Just Say No!"
 Tuesday: Click on Caught in the Act
 Wednesday: Click on Super Hero

Primaries (ages 6-8) *Friends Forever*

Friday: Feast With Friends
 Sunday: Kindness Makes Friends
 Monday: Friends say, "I'm Sorry"
 Tuesday: Happy Hearts
 Wednesday: A Labor of Love

Senior Teens: Ages 16-19) *You've Got Mail*

Friday: Your Awesome Future
 Sunday: Cliques or Friendships
 Monday: Join the Leaders
 Tuesday: Peer Power!
 Wednesday: Win Your Crown

Juniors (ages 9-11) *Stay On Course*

Friday: Stay on Track
 Sunday: True Colors
 Monday: Gaining Momentum
 Tuesday: Flat Tires
 Wednesday: Avoid the Ruts

Special Feast Lessons

Notice to parents and students: The morning of each Sabbath or Holy Day, stop by the YEA desk before service and pick up a special lesson for Beginners, Primaries, and Juniors to do during the worship service.

Speaking Schedule

September 29-Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	Ronald L. Dart
September 30-Thursday	11:00 a.m.	Ronald L. Dart
Afternoon	3:00 p.m.	Seminars
October 1-Friday	11:00 a.m.	Steve Sanders
October 2-Sabbath	11:00 a.m.	Larry S. Watkins
Afternoon	3:00 p.m.	Seminars
October 3-Sunday	11:00 a.m.	Ronald L. Dart
October 4-Monday	11:00 a.m.	Jim O' Brien
October 5-Tuesday*	11:00 a.m.	Jeff Osborn
October 6-Wednesday	11:00 a.m.	Youth Day
October 7-Thursday	11:00 a.m.	Ronald L. Dart

*This song service will be predominantly contemporary Praise and Worship music.

Great Activities

Thursday, September 30

6:45-8:45 p.m. - Family Night at The Track

Friday, October 1

1:30-3:00 p.m. - Young Adult Open House

1:30-3:00 p.m. - Singles Luncheon

1:30-3:00 p.m. - Seniors Luncheon

1:30-3:00 p.m. - Junior Class Get-together

7:00-9:00 p.m. - Pie and Ice Cream Social

TBA - Teen Beach Party

6:00-8:30 p.m. Teen (15-19) Fun, Food,
Fellowship, in the faith.

Saturday, October 2

7:30-9:30 - Family Dance

7:30-9:30 - Young Children's Costume Party

Sunday, October 3

1:00-5:00 p.m. - Family Picnic Fellowship

After Service - Young Adult Fellowship

Monday, October 4

After Service - Young Adult Fellowship

After Service - Young Family Luncheon

After Service - Praise/Worship Practice

Tuesday, October 5

After Service - Young Adult Fellowship

1:30 til . . . - Golf

7:00 -9:00 p.m. - Fun Show

Wednesday, October 6

After Service - Young Adult Fellowship

After Service - Young Children's Beach Party

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