

Personal from. . .

Ronald L. Dart

Islam and the Last Days

I know everyone is interested in the Middle East, and trying to make sense out of that muddle is no easy task. If you depend on the old media, you are sure to find yourself totally at sea. Every media outlet has its bias, its point of view. You can never be sure what they are leaving out of what they are telling you, and what platform they are standing on as they view events. I think most of us know this, if not consciously, that we have this little voice of American common sense that tells us there has to be more. It is the only way I can understand how this nation has stayed religious in the face of the anti-religion onslaught we have faced for a hundred years.

But thanks to the Internet, we learn stuff we might otherwise miss. Thanks to the Internet, even the old media is forced to pay attention and even report, however scathingly, on what turns up on the Internet. Yes, much of what you read on the Internet is trash or worse. But at least you get to decide for yourself, instead of having it decided for you by media moguls, who have one eye on

the bottom line and the other eye on their political connections.

It was the Internet that brought the text of a remarkable speech to my mailbox. It is unlikely you have ever heard of this gentleman. His name is Haim Harari, he is a theoretical physicist, and chairs the Davidson Institute of Science Education. The speech was given at the Jacksonville, Florida chapter of the Navy League. I tell you this so you will know who said it, but you would recognize the wisdom if you knew nothing at all about the speaker.

Sometimes, you just need someone to put things in perspective. For example, we have been told repeatedly that Israel is the problem in the Middle East. The very existence of this little state on the eastern rim of the Mediterranean Sea,

and what Arabs call Zionism, is the problem. There are actually people who believe that if Israel would just go away, so would all the problems. There are people who believe that the 9/11 atrocity was directly due to American support of Israel.

Haim Harari summarized this in terms that are immediately seen as true, even though we may not have put it all together. "Why," he asks, "do I put aside Israel and its own immediate neighborhood? Because Israel and any problems related to it, in spite of what you might read or hear in the world media, is not the central issue, and has never been the central issue in the upheaval in the region. Yes, there is a 100 year-old Israeli-Arab conflict, but it is not where the main show is."

Now look at this list he included in his speech:

- The millions who died in the Iran-Iraq war had nothing to do with Israel.

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Tax-favored Gifts

You don't have to be wealthy to increase your contributions to CEM. You can 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. Contact Larry Watkins at 1-888-BIBLE 44 to find out how these things can be done.

Fantastic 2004 Feast

Mid September Hurricane Ivan tore up Interstate 10, Highways 98, bridges, homes, condos, businesses, and the coast of Florida. In spite of this disaster, with God's help and the hard work of the Festival Association, CEM's Feast site was quickly moved from Ft. Walton Beach, Florida to Eureka Springs, Arkansas. The move couldn't have gone smoother. Spirits were not dampened, nor hardly a ripple was seen in the full program and schedule of events attended by nearly 700 joyful people.

Thought Provoking Seminars

By Nancy Vandermark

Last minute changes necessary to relocate in Eureka Springs from hurricane damaged Okaloosa Island, Florida went much smoother than one would have expected. All but two of our seminar presenters were able to make the location shift. Attendance at seminars was very encouraging. Almost a quarter of the adults at this year's Feast attended at least one seminar. Seventeen topics were offered with the highest daily attendance being 129 on Sunday.

An effective new feature was added to the program this year. Well-attend seminar sessions replaced afternoon services on the first Holy Day and the weekly Sabbath. These sessions were in addition to the usual morning seminars held before the services on the weekdays during the Feast. Tweaking the schedule in this way made it possible for people with week-day responsibilities, such as choir practice and YEA, to attend. Another plus was Dr. Mike Linacre adding extra sessions of his series on the New Testament during the weekday afternoons.

Great Activities

By Wade Hamil

WOW!! What a Team! Shirley and I couldn't have put all of the Feast activities together without such a terrific team. Nita and Wayne

Hinton put together a team of helpers for the annual Pie and Ice Cream Social. People came all evening to enjoy their fill of these luscious desserts and fellowship

About 200 hungry people found their way to the park in the hills of Arkansas Sunday afternoon to enjoy freshly grilled hamburgers, hotdogs, and all the trimmings. Beth and Richard Meese saw to it that there were enough burger flippers and plenty of food to go around for this family picnic. The scenery and food were wonderful, and only surpassed by the warm fellowship.

Nita and Wayne Hinton were there again helping with refreshments and setting up for a most successful Family Dance. People danced until 10 p.m. to the music of a wonderful band.

The pool at the Best Western Inn, where the conference center was, served very nicely for a pool party. Forty kids splashed and swam all afternoon. Another young family event Tracy Sadler hosted was a luncheon at McDonalds in Berryville. Five families came to enjoy their fill of hamburgers and McDonald's playground. But Tracy wasn't finished providing fun opportunities. She organized a cruise around Table Rock Lake that filled two boats. Beautiful scenery and quiet-time fellowship were enjoyed by all.

Another activity for teens and young adults to attend was the bowling party Dianne Cacchio organized. About 60 people showed up to see how many strikes and spares they could total.

One of the many blessings this Feast provided was inexpensive, great golfing. John Beasley ferreted out this golf course in the beautiful Ozark Mountains. His daily announcements garnered an excellent turnout with lots of fun at the scramble.

Plenty of entertaining acts brought loads of laughter, thanks to Jeff and Joan Osborn's great organizational skills in stage production. One of the highlights of the Fun Show was an outstanding puppet show the Arizona church sponsored. What a delightful evening!

Many thanks to everyone who pitched-in and helped turn a storm disaster into a delightful year for Feast activities and entertainment. Ya'll did good!

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*Islam and the Last Days
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- The mass murder happening right now in Sudan, where the Arab Moslem regime is massacring its black Christian citizens, has nothing to do with Israel.
- The frequent reports from Algeria about the murders of hundreds of civilians in one village or another by other Algerians have nothing to do with Israel.
- Saddam Hussein did not invade Kuwait, endanger Saudi Arabia, and butcher his own people because of Israel.
- Egypt did not use poison gas against Yemen in the 60's because of Israel.
- Assad the Father [dictator of Syria] did not kill tens of thousands of his own citizens in one week in El Hamma in Syria because of Israel.
- The Taliban control of Afghanistan and the civil war there had nothing to do with Israel.
- The Libyan blowing up of the Pan-Am flight had nothing to do with Israel.

And Haim Harari concludes, "The root of the trouble is that this entire Moslem region is totally dysfunctional, by any standard of the word, and would have been so even if Israel would have joined the Arab League and an independent Palestine would have existed for 100 years."

What impresses me is that we already know this, don't we? If we have been paying attention, the truth of this statement rings like a gong. And that means the problem isn't going away anytime soon. Not only is it not

going away, it is almost certainly going nuclear in the not too distant future.

And while we worry a lot about a terrorist act involving nuclear weapons in this country, it is even more likely that the first nuclear blast of this century will take place somewhere in the Middle East. Iran is not busy developing a nuclear weapon so they can attack the United States. That would result in annihilation. And while the mullahs of Iran are happy when suicide bombers blow up Israeli school children, they aren't interested in martyrdom for themselves or their children.

No, what they are interested in is becoming the dominant Moslem power in the world – the next Caliph, the successor of Mohammed who unites all the Moslem world under his domination. Only then will they consider what to do about the infidels in the west. Attacks on the United States and Europe are designed to impress and intimidate Moslems. There are those who think that the attacks of 9/11 were a major blunder in that they provoked the great eagle into massive retaliation. That was not the objective they hoped for.

Now if we are living in the last days, there ought to be something in the Bible about all this. I discuss it at some length in a presentation titled, "Islam and the Last Days." I would very much like to send you a *free* cassette tape of the presentation. Just check the box on the enclosed card and send it back to us in the envelope we have provided for your convenience.

We'll send it to you *FREE* by return mail.

Keep in touch, and never forget, you were *Born to Win*.

Looking ahead and watching,

Ronald L. Dart

P.S. As always, that tape is free of charge. We would be grateful for any contribution you can make, but in any case we want you to have it. The subject is just too important to ignore. We will also send you information of how you can obtain other presentations as well as albums of past *Born to Win* radio programs.

CEM Family Bible Retreat

Make your reservations for Memorial Day weekend 2005. What better place for a Family Bible Retreat than in the beautiful Ozark Mountains at the Bel Arco Resort. It's in Bull Shoals, Arkansas overlooking the Bull Shoals Lake near the White River.

There will be a full schedule of Bible learning for every age group, water sports, tennis courts, a playground for the kids, and an arcade game room for teens.

A limited number of reasonably priced rooms are available and there is an RV park nearby overlooking the White River. To reserve your room call 866-235-2726 today. Tell them you're with the CEM group. We look forward to seeing you there!

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Most Successful YEA Feast Classes

By Sharon Richardson

YEA classes were full of eager young people and kids, all ready to learn and have fun doing it. In all, 94 young people ages three through 20 registered for classes with the largest ever Senior Teens class. And the Conference Center was very helpful in meeting our needs.

Exciting YEA lessons used active forms of learning. Icebreaker games were used in every first lesson to help students get to know each other and reach their comfort level in class as they learned about God's love for them. It was very apparent that students enjoyed every class. One very young lady, attending her first Feast with CEM, walked in and saw the children dipping their hands in paint to put hand-prints on their new T-shirt. She quickly smiled and said goodbye to her mother and ran to join the group. Everyone seemed to feel at home in the YEA classes.

It was wonderful to see so many kids come early and stay together afterwards so they could continue to visit. YEA classes provided them with a unique opportunity to join others their own age who share their beliefs and goals for the future. This very special Feast in the Ozarks brought us many young people who would otherwise not have been there. We welcome them and invite them to join us next year in Ft. Walton Beach for more awesome classes. It just gets better each year!

I Found the Youth Day I Was Looking For

By Lisa Gregor

After months of pre-Feast planning, a barrage of hurricanes hit the Florida coast and Youth Day appeared to be a wash-out. The big question was, "Will there be enough young people to staff Youth Day?" As it looked, probably our best hope was an abbreviated version. But God works in mysterious ways.

We made the 12 hour trip to Eureka Springs to find it overflowing with young people. There were kids coming out of the woodwork to participate in the Youth Day. Eight of the nine people who had originally agreed to take speaking roles in the Youth Day play wound up attending in Arkansas. Thirty-six

others joined the cast of "Jesus Tabernacled Among Us." Many more young people participated in three choirs and shared their talents through special music and dance, as well as song leading, testimonials, and prayers.

There truly is something about adversity that brings out the best in people. Maybe it is that we are forced to rely on God rather than ourselves when we're in new and uncertain situations. Whatever the reason, there was a unity of purpose that I've never felt before. . . I know that the Holy Spirit was moving among the many people involved in providing a glimpse of the abundant talents God has poured into His young people. Many thanks to every person who helped make Youth Day the awesome experience it was. And thank you for turning lemons into lemonade!

Radio Update

WJYI Milwaukee, WI 1340 AM 2:00 pm M-F & 6:30 am Sun.
WCER Canton, OH 900 AM 7:30 am Sunday
KXKS Albuquerque, NM 1190 AM 4:30 pm M-F

Calendar of Events

Lexington, KY - Ronald L. Dart will be speaking
December 25, 2004 at 2:30 p.m. at the Griffin Gate
Marriott, Lexington, KY at Newton Pike and I-75, exit
115. For more information call 1-888-BIBLE-44.

Christian Educational Ministries



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