

Living to Win

August 15, 2005
Volume 10, Number 8
Christian Educational Ministries

Personal from. . .

Ronald L. Dart

Freedom Laid Down

Freedom is a terrible burden to bear, and it is a sad fact of life that men are all too willing to lay down that burden in the name of security or some other combination of social goods that are promised by political leaders. We need to think about this, because the result of laying down the burden of freedom is the laying down of freedom itself.

One of the times of the greatest freedom a people could ever have enjoyed was the period of time described in the Book of Judges in the Bible. It was a stormy time, and Israel was terrorized by enemies from time to time. It happened to them when they let down on the most fundamental principles of divine law, an essential to any free people. They lived under a true theocracy. That is to say, God was their only king. Problem was, God was out of sight for the most part, and they were free to do as they pleased. Which is all well and good as long as you are the doer. It is not so good when you are the one being done to.

In the course of time, the Israelites got weary of carrying the burden themselves and wanted to make a change of government. Now consider this carefully. They wanted to give up a theocracy. Why would they want to give up so much freedom? Why would they not want

to continue under the Kingship of God who gave them all but free reign as long as they remained true to Him?

Well, there is a secondary definition of a theocracy: government of a state by immediate divine guidance *or by officials who are regarded as divinely guided*. All was well as long as that official speaking for God was regarded as divinely guided. His name was Samuel. But there is one thing that is crucial in any governmental system, be it theocratic or other. The leadership must display integrity.

Unfortunately, when Samuel got old and tired, he relaxed the rein he kept on his sons, and they, like the sons of Eli before, corrupted the priesthood. At the same time, Israel was getting old and tired as a people. They thought the solution was to have a king like all the nations around them. Why

they thought a king would be less corrupt isn't clear. Samuel, however, left them in doubt about what this new, centralized government was going to cost them. In so many words, he told them that things would not get better, they would get worse.

But the people would not listen and their response to Samuel contains the real truth tagged on at the end of their request: "that our king may judge us, and *go out before us, and fight our battles.*"

Samuel has just told them that it won't be the king who goes out and fights their battles. It will be their own sons, just like it has always been. Only now, you will have a king and a government to support with all its burdens, and you will have to do it without God fighting your battles for you.

In a very real sense, it was terrorism that drove Israel to lay down so much of their freedom and their wealth. And, having learned nothing from history, we are on the verge of doing the same thing ourselves. As I work my way through a new radio series on biblical history, I am constantly

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Will your employer help?

More than 100 companies across this nation will match a gift an employee gives to a charitable organization. Is your employer one of them? Ask your company if they are. Having your employer match your contribution could go a long way towards helping others hear the Gospel without costing you a dime. The only thing it will cost you is one question, and CEM and many other people will benefit from your donation being doubled. Take a minute and check this out.

CEM'S YEA SUMMER CAMP

By Lora Hufton

Christian Educational Ministries once again hosted its annual teen summer camp this year in Wewoka Woods, OK. During the last week in June, 33 teenagers came together in the hills of South-Central Oklahoma to learn more about God and the Bible, meet other teens of like-mind, and thoroughly enjoy themselves. The daily routine involved two Bible studies, three square meals, and four activity periods. In addition, they enjoyed relaxing social activities in the evenings such as a game night, a pool party, a cookout, the annual fun show, and dances. Due to the nearness of the 4th of July, attendance was somewhat down, but participation was high and spirits soared.

Bible studies, written by Mrs. Paula Hughes of Arp, Texas, were centered on the theme of "Making a Difference." With the design and printing help of CEM's YEA editorial division, each camper and counselor had a full-color lesson book. The lessons concentrated on the lives of David, Esther, Daniel, and Ruth, and the differences they made in their world, even while very young. In the mornings, campers gathered in small cabin groups for interactive Bible study with the lessons. Then after two activities and lunch, campers and counselors all came together for a group study. Friday night, campers had a chance to ask questions and discuss pressing issues with each other and the college-age associate counselors.

The counselors and staff came from Georgia, Texas, and Illinois as volunteers to help make Camp YEA happen. Activities included tie-dyeing, group initiatives, swimming and mountain biking. Cuyler Repine, a third year camper from Atlanta, especially enjoyed horseback riding, volleyball, and skiing. Every night campers came together at Huddle to discuss the exciting events and personal achievements of the day. Each day ended with praise and worship songs including "Here I Am Lord," "You Raise Me Up," and "I Can Only Imagine." The last Huddle concluded later than usual due to the campers begging to sing "Shout to the Lord" one last time. For the past ten years, Mr. Larry Watkins has been director of CEM's YEA Summer Camp. He and his wife, along with the other volunteer counselors, make it possible for teens to grow and learn in a media-free environment, if only for one week. As fourth year camper Brittany Martin of Lindale, Texas, says, "What makes this camp so unique is its smaller size and caring staff. You get close to everybody and you get to know them." This year brought together some of the most uplifting and amazing teens and was certainly considered a great success by all who attended.

In this crazy world, one week of our summer is often the only week of comfort and trouble-free growth we experience all year. I think I speak for all when I sincerely say, "thank you" to Christian Educational Ministries and each and every staff member who helps make camp happen.

If you are interested in attending summer camp next year, get in touch with Larry Watkins at lsw@cemnetwork.com or write CEM at P.O. Box 560, Whitehouse, TX 75791. Camp next year is scheduled for the week of June 25 - July 2.



YEA Anchors Youth To Christ

Transform your Feast as you connect your youth to eternal truths through the YEA Feast classes and seminars. Register all kids between the ages of three and 20 Monday night or Tuesday (October 17 or 18) for five days of exciting classes. Attendees will pick up their full-color YEA books at the registration desk so they can prepare for action-packed classes. Issues will be addressed that each child or teenager faces at their particular stage of development.

Age-appropriate classes are held five days of the Feast for five different age groups. So many kids anxiously flock to study God's Word that seven rooms will be staffed to ensure no class is too large for effective learning.

We've heard our Senior Teens (16-20), and YEA will be providing challenging seminars that go deeper into God's word. These seminars take young people beyond repentance and baptism. Our goal is to provide training for future church leaders. This is a fresh, new concept for meeting the needs of our young adults. Seminars will be held at the same time as the YEA classes.

YEA classes and seminars are so much fun and so effective, they bring many families to the CEM Feast site. Don't allow your kids to be left behind. Come and give them the YEA advantage at CEM's 2005 Feast.

Youth Day will be the seventh day of the Feast, when our young people will be in charge of the worship service. We have positions to be filled and are looking for talent. If you are a young person who would like to participate in this special service, contact Katie Swenson at kswenson@7words.com or phone her at 317-442-1097.

*Freedom Laid Down
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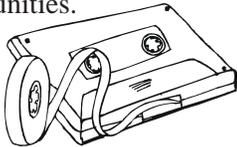
amazed at how relevant it all is to our world, right now. With terrorism dominating the news, and with new demands for new security (all very reason-able), we are discussing not whether, but how much of our freedom and our privacy we are willing to sacrifice for security.

Since it will be a while before these programs are available to the general public, I would like to send them to you right now. We offered you the first two programs in the series a few weeks ago, and now I would like to send you programs three and four. Just check the box on the enclosed card and rush it back to us. The tape is *FREE*, so don't delay.

God bless you, and thank you for keeping in touch,

Ronald L. Dart

P.S. That tape is *FREE*, but any donation you send will be applied faithfully to getting God's word out to our communities.



Back to the Beach (We hope!) By Skip Martin

In December 2003, the CEM Festival Association began planning for the 2004 Feast of Tabernacles. We were all set to have the Feast in Fort Walton Beach, FL, but a couple of weeks before the Feast, Hurricane Ivan had other plans for us. Within two weeks, we had secured a conference facility in Eureka Springs, AR, and the Feast was held there. It was amazing how the Festival Association, a totally volunteer group, was able to change locations without a hitch. God was surely looking down and smiling. This year, we plan to be back in Florida at the Emerald Coast Conference Center at Fort Walton Beach, weather permitting.

The CEM Feast is known for its emphasis on teaching our youth and bringing them to Christ. CEM has one-hour youth classes for ages three to 20. Last time we held the Feast in Florida, there were 196 registered in YEA Feast Classes.

The CEM Feast is a place for adults to learn, too. Each morning, except for Sabbaths, at least two topical seminars are presented. They are conducted at the same time as YEA Classes, so parents can bring their children to youth classes and stay for a different seminar each day.

The music service at the CEM Feast is second to none. Roof-raising hymns, along with moving special music performances, grace each service. One day each year is set aside for a special "Praise/Worship" music service. On that day, a small band accompanies the hymn service and more "contemporary" hymns are sung.

One of the most popular worship services at the CEM Feast is the "Youth Day" service. On that day, it is "no adults allowed" on the stage. The entire service is conducted by the youth at the Feast. On this day, our youth lead congregational hymns, open and close with prayer, present a skit about a biblical topic, youth choirs sing hymns, older teens present "testimonials," and several of the youth present very moving special music.

CEM Feast activities promote fellowship and family. There is a family dance, picnics for teens and the family, activities for singles and seniors, the famous Pie and Ice Cream Social, and . . . well, you'll just have to come to the CEM Feast to find out all the rest. I guarantee you will say it was one of the most inspiring Feasts you have ever attended.

CEM FOT 2005 Seminar Program By Pam Dewey

As in past years, the CEM FOT 2004 seminar program in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, was well-attended. One of the most popular features of the program in Eureka was the addition of seminar sessions on the afternoons of the first Holy Day and the weekly Sabbath, in lieu of afternoon worship services. Some who have been unable in the past to attend the morning seminar sessions because of other commitments, such as choir members and YEA teachers, expressed particular appreciation for the extra sessions.

So those folks will no doubt be pleased to hear that the 2005 seminar program will continue this new feature. There will be no morning seminars on either of the Holy Days, or on the weekly Sabbath. There will be two sessions to choose from on the afternoon of the first Holy Day, and on each weekday morning during the same time as the YEA classes before the daily worship service.

A new addition to this year's program will be a "Sabbath Seminar Smorgasbord" offered on the afternoon of the weekly Sabbath. Plans call for three hours of seminar sessions in a row, with at least three seminars to choose from during each time slot. Feast goers will be welcome to attend one, two, or all three sessions.

Titles and topics of the seminars will be announced later. The current lineup of presenters includes Bill Jacobs, Pam Dewey, Guy Swenson, Nancy Vandemark, Jim Ross, Lisa Laughton, Lenny Cacchio, Joan Osborn, Larry Watkins, Stephanie Smith, Michael Deering, Linda Benton, and Jeff Osborn.

Calendar of Events

Fort Walton Beach, FL - The Feast of Tabernacles begins at 7:30 p.m. Monday, October 17 and ends with the Last Great Day on October 25. It will be held at the beautiful Emerald Coast Conference Center. A full schedule of inspirational sermons, seminars, youth classes, and family activities are planned. A daily worship service will be held at 11 a.m. every day. No pre-registration is required. Call Larry Watkins at 1-888-BIBLE 44 for information on accommodations or visit our website at www.cemnetwork.com.

Letters to the Editor

Hello Mr Dart:

I have been a Christian for about 7 years, and have been exposed to Christian radio for about the same period of time. I have listened closely to some well known teachers, Chuck Swindol, J. Vernon McGee and many others for some time. About a year and a half ago while traveling through the Modesto, CA area I came across Born to Win. In fact I had to pull off the freeway onto a side road and park my truck to give full attention to what I was hearing. Your teaching blew me away! At that time you were broadcasting a series called "What is God Doing?" The particular episode talked about Joseph, who rose to high rank in Pharaoh's court, turning all Egypt into sharecroppers. You further went on to say that is what governments seek to do; they seek to own you. Frankly I had read that portion of Genesis and never given it much thought, but you were absolutely right! I was hooked!

I have followed your teachings since, and have never been disappointed. You always provoke thought and study. I like your low-key relaxed style. Yet in spite of a style that more resembles a college lecture than a sermon, you always have a well presented message that inspires deep thinking. You have changed my thinking on a number of issues. We tend to become too mired in Christian dogma, unable to think for ourselves, or hear what God's Word says. Through your teaching I have found a different perspective on a number of passages that "mainstream denominations" have probably taken out of context, or fitted to their preconceived expectations. As you've said in several recent programs, "When the only tool you have is a hammer, all your problems start to look like nails."

I have taken particular interest in your teaching on the Immortal soul, death, hell and salvation. I have closely followed most of your programs over the last year via the internet, and may in future days wish to ask some specific questions. You are a reasoned voice that reflects common sense, in a media that too often is shrill and judgmental. I thank you for your teaching. KD

For the last couple of years, your radio show has been with me every morning (KLT 670 - Denver). Your tapes and teachings have been a great blessing to our family for your reassuring and inspiring way of bringing us much more of the Word and lessons of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We pray the Lord will continue to bless you and Allie and family. We thank you for being with us each and every day. JB

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