

Living to Win

July 15, 2006
Volume 11, Number 7
Christian Educational Ministries

Personal from. . .

Ronald L. Dart

What Christians Have

Sometimes, I wonder if Christian people know what they have. They may parrot, “Christ is the answer,” but not one in ten understands what the questions are, and still fewer understand exactly *how* Christ is the answer. I am always awestruck at the miraculous way Jesus can change a life. He can rescue a drug addict from the trash heap. He can save an alcoholic and make him a good husband again. And I am nearly as amazed that most people have no idea how it happens.

Yes, it is a miracle, but there is more to be said than that. Christ is the answer to a wide range of human problems. He is the answer to poverty, to drugs, to violence, to family failure. But how? How on earth does this work? One thing is certain. It happens only at the personal level. Christ is not the answer to the drug problem in the country, or He would have put an end to it long ago.

I have heard very believable testimonies from people who, having invited Christ into their lives, by whatever terminology they describe it, say their lives

were turned completely around from the destructive behaviors that went before. I have not heard anyone explain exactly how it happened. It is as though there is just this mystical change. Yesterday I wanted a drink, today I don’t. Now far be it from me to question whether that is a true statement. But I think there is more to it than that. It has to do with what Christian people have, that they don’t know they have. They have *a way of living a life*. Here is what Jesus said:

Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.

Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it (Matthew 7:13-14 NKJV).

This is a fundamental idea of the Christian faith: it is a *way*. Lest you think this is an insignificant remark, consider how Luke described what happened to Saul. Saul had gone to the High Priest and had asked for letters of authority “so that if he found any who belonged to ‘The Way,’ men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem” (Acts 9:2).

“The Way” is something you can belong to. What this means is: There is a Christian way of doing things. There is a Christian way of evaluating issues. There is a Christian way of living, and

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Changing Lives

CEM gives away far more tapes than they sell. If a person cannot afford to buy tapes, YEA books, or Christian Origins books, we will give them *FREE*. These things are changing the lives of the young and mature alike. The YEA books are anchoring young people to Christ as never before. Would you like to play a part in doing this? Your donations make it possible for us to freely give these items to those who cannot afford them.

Your *FREE* Feast Package

CEM has never required preregistration for the Feast of Tabernacles, and is *not* requiring it this year. Everyone is welcome whether they preregister or not. We've visited Chattanooga, looked at all it has to offer God's people at the Feast, and realized how *you* would be helped by receiving a preregistration packet of information. The following are just some of the benefits those who preregister will receive:

- You'll have a map as you drive into town that can help you find your accommodations, the Convention Center, and where the opening night's service will be held.
- You'll learn where to find *FREE*, convenient parking that can save you money every day you are at the Feast.
- You'll learn about the convenience of taking the *FREE* downtown shuttle to services, sights you want to see, shopping, and many other places. The preregistration packet includes a map of the shuttle route, its schedule, and other helpful advantages it offers.
- You'll receive *The Chattanooga Visitor's Guide* that is chock-full of invaluable information about places to go and things to see and do. Eateries are included and listed by location, primary cuisine, average entree costs (starting at \$5), and times meals are served.
- You'll find a plethora of things to do for every age group. If you're looking for: adventure; thrills; fun; water sports; educational, cultural or restful opportunities, Chattanooga has it all – for kids, teens, adults, and families. The Family Picnic, Pie and Ice Cream Social, Variety Show, Family Dance, Teen Bible Study, Teen Mixer, Children's Party, Singles' and Seniors' luncheons will be on the schedule as well. Believe me, there is no shortage of great things to do for every age group.
- You'll receive a book of Power Savings coupons from the Factory Outlet mall. There are other savings you'll learn about as well.
- You'll receive information about housing and camping to meet every budget.

Doubtless, it will help CEM if you preregister for the Feast. We can better plan social events, seminars, YEA classes and other things by having some idea of how many wonderful folks are joining us this year in Chattanooga. We hope and pray all of you will. But more important, CEM is here to help you have your greatest Feast ever. We want to do everything we can to make your Feast in Chattanooga a spiritually renewing experience, trouble free, affordable, and a fun and bonding time with family and friends. We want you to join us in Chattanooga. And we want the Feast to be a time to remember. You can write us, log on to CEM's website at www.borntowin.net or telephone us at 1-888-BIBLE-44 to request your *FREE* preregistration packet. Don't you think you should do it NOW, before you forget?

Read Our Mail

Daily, we get the most interesting and encouraging mail from people hearing the *Born to Win* program for the first time, from those whose lives are being changed, and from people who deeply appreciate what CEM is doing. How we wish we could share more of these letters with you, but space does not permit. The following are a few we want to share with you.

"I just came back from Benin Republic in Africa. I was immensely blessed through your radio outreach in one of the local radio stations in Cotonou. Your teachings on *What is God Doing?* was a source of blessing to me.

"It was wonderful to hear you preach in Africa (Capp FM Radio). My prayer is that the Lord will continue to bless your outreach.

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*What Christians Have
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it makes all the difference. Now I know all that seems obvious, but it is important to realize the Christian faith is a way of life, not merely a way of thinking. It is not a creed, a doctrine, or a dogma. It is not a philosophy. Every time I hear a particular talking head on TV call Jesus a philosopher, I grate my teeth. It is patronizing. The idea that the Christian faith is a philosophy is asinine, especially coming from a man who claims to be Catholic. But then, he has no more idea than most what he, as a Christian, has in his hand. He has been emasculated by political correctness.

How many philosophers have you ever heard of who made the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk? How many philosophers have been killed and then brought back to life three days later? I don't believe Christians know what they have, or they would be moving heaven and earth with it. Luke tells us what happened to the disciples in Thessalonica while Paul was still there. Some of the Jews in the city incited a mob and set the whole city in an uproar. They wanted Paul, but only found Jason. Him they dragged to the local council. Their statement: "These who have turned the world upside down have come here too" (Acts 17:6 NKJV).

Think about it. Even allowing for an overstatement by the mob, two men were having a profound effect all over the empire. How did they do that?

With a million man march? Demonstrations in the cities of the Roman Empire? No, they did it with words. One thing you can say for Paul, he knew what he had.

I remember a book by Robert Townsend years ago, particularly one illustration he offered. If you discovered a means whereby pollution could be eliminated in all 50 states, one state at a time, for 50 cents per state, your best bet would be to quietly, without any announcement, go do it. Almost anyone has the \$25 it would require. On the other hand, if you called a press conference and announced you were going to do it, everyone and his neighbor would go to work telling you why you couldn't do it, shouldn't do it, or it wouldn't work. Congress would probably hold hearings and pass laws that make it impossible. And your mother would call and tell you not to even try.

What Townsend was trying to tell us is to just *do it*. You have the power. You have the knowledge, you even have God's help. What you need is *the will* to act. When the Holy Spirit told the folks in Antioch to separate Paul and Barnabas and send them out on an evangelistic mission, they did not ask for permission. They just did it. If they had asked the guys in Jerusalem, they probably would never have gotten it done.

Look what happened after they did it. They started turning the world upside down, and a political party in the church

showed up to tell them they couldn't do that. Someone once said, "If you change enough people, you can change the course of a nation." It's true. You can even change the course of history. Paul and Silas did just that.

But how? What was it that they had? And how did it work? The answer is too long to cover here, but I would love to send you a *FREE* tape or CD that will tell you how it works. The title is *What Christians Have*. Check the enclosed card and return it to us. The tape or CD is *FREE*, but your contribution will help us put this idea on the air. Maybe we, too, can turn the world upside down. Why not?

Trying to do my part,

Ronald L. Dart

P.S. Also, another penetrating book is coming soon. This book is about the holydays of the Bible titled, *The Thread: God's Appointments with History*. It's new! Watch for it.

In Memory

CEM is very grateful for the generous donation made in loving memory of Herb Magoon, a faithful and loyal minister, who passed away April 10, 2006 from a long-time illness, in Castle Rock, CO. Our heartfelt prayers and sympathy are with Marilyn and her family at the loss of her husband and their father. Herb will be greatly missed.

Read Our Mail

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"I had my Sabbath worship over the radio. Thanks a lot." Jim

Margaret Dyer-Forster of Bermuda sponsors this broadcast and assists these people with some of their financial needs. Please pray for them and for Margaret as she performs a great helping ministry.

"I listen to Mr. Dart every work day on AM 850 WDJC. He has been a real blessing to me and it is hard to find a preacher that you agree with almost everything they say and very hard when you have been listening for about 4 years. . . I am very glad that someone will still preach on the law of God and the Sabbath Day's of the Lord. I really like that he reads more Bible verses than he gives opinion. . ." BS

"I listen on KLTT 670 AM in Denver, Colorado. I enjoy this program and learn so much from the way Mr. Dart teaches. Please know you have my family as loyal listeners!" JS

"Well structured and Biblically based. A welcome common sense approach to God's Word. I have enjoyed the programs I have listened to and I have been back to my Bible to confirm what Ronald has said. Keep it coming. You have a regular listener here." CT

"I am a pastor in Portland, Oregon and listen to the daily broadcast of *Born to Win* on KKSL AM. Appreciate the simple teaching and common sense insights on God's word. Praying for you." PM

"I have been an ardent follower of your *Born to Win* radio program, and thanks to the net (and by the grace of God), I've been able to follow your series and am blessed in return with the straightforward facts that you share to your listeners. The way you present the Scriptures removes the shadow of anxiety that I had whenever I study the Holy Bible, and burns my heart to follow what God says to me through His word, especially in following His commandments. And I would like to thank you. . ." RS

"When the *Born to Win* program comes on I run from wherever I am to a radio to listen to your program. I can't wait every day of the week for 1:00 pm to come around and if I happen to be in the car, I will sit inside and listen the entire program through, then I continue my business. In the years I have been listening I know your doctrine as a Christian teacher is impeccable not once have I heard anything different from what we all Baptist or Presbyterians or any other person saved by the grace of the LORD JESUS, believes. It is all faithful to the WORD." NF

"I was so pleased to receive the picture and before that the encouraging card and of course all of the tapes with the encouraging, loving messages from God through you.

"You know – God led me to your ministry during a very difficult time in my life. I am continually amazed at the timely messages that continue to come – seemingly just at the time I need them. God is good. . ." MD

Calendar of Events

Tyler, TX, Meet the Teacher - at the United Heritage Bank, 1620 S. Broadway on July 29th at 2 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information call Larry Watkins at 1-888-BIBLE-44.

2006 Feast of Tabernacles Chattanooga, TN - Everyone is welcome to join us October 7th - 14th at the Chattanooga Convention Center for inspirational, biblical sermons, a full schedule of Christian living seminars, YEA youth classes for all age groups, and many social opportunities to meet and bond with others of like faith. For a preregistration package and further information see the article in this issue titled, *Your FREE Feast Package*.

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