

Where Have We Gone Wrong?

By Ronald L. Dart

Does anyone know where we went wrong? It is impossible to deny that we made a wrong turn somewhere. Our ship of state is headed toward the rocks and there seems to be nothing we can do to stop it. I hear voices on every side telling the government what to do, but I am left with the sinking feeling that no one knows what to do. We have been sailing happily on our way, looking for all the world like the richest nation anyone has ever seen. Then we found it was all debt, all borrowed money. Next we found there was no collateral for all that, and we are left with an empty bag.

It is hard to believe that criminal charges couldn't be brought against someone, somewhere. Problem is, there are too many lawbreakers, we don't have enough jails, and we can't afford to build new ones.

A Prophet's Message for Today?

If we had a prophet show up in our streets the day after tomorrow, what would he say was the root of our problem? I am not sure God would even speak to us, but if a Jeremiah showed up somewhere and laid it on the line from God, what would he say? I don't think he would even speak to the immediate

causes of our financial mess. He would go deeper than that. He would know that you can't cure a disease merely by treating the symptoms. If a real prophet showed up, what would he say? I think he might start out by saying:

"The Lord, the Creator, put words in my mouth, and this is what he said to you: 'I remember you. I remember your toughness as a people conquering a wilderness. You set out to explore this new land, and you spoke of freedom to worship me according to my word, not the word of a king of the old country. What a gorgeous land this wilderness was, rich in resources, undeveloped, unplanted, a little scary, but you came on. And you declared your freedom in my name. You came to see that I and I

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Where Have We Gone Wrong? . . .	1
By Ronald L. Dart	1
Helping Others in Hard Times	1
Healing Through Suffering	2
By Jim O'Brien	2
In Memory	4
SPECIAL CD OFFER	
Origins of Evil	4
Statement of Cash Flows	4

alone granted men unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.'

"The people who tried to take this land from you learned through miracle after miracle, which they saw only as bad luck, that evil befell them for their trouble. For

continued on page 3 . . .

Helping Others in Hard Times. . .

In a bad economy the temptation may be to cut back on your giving, but remember, people need the Gospel more than ever in hard times. One lady wrote: "Thank you for your faithfulness. The seed has been received and will take root and bring a harvest. The reason I have not contacted you is because I am so ashamed that I cannot send an offering. I am undergoing the greatest financial trial in my life." Seeing to people's spiritual needs is important to us at CEM. We pray that you'll continue to help us do this as God blesses you. There may be fewer who can help people such as this hear the Gospel freely.

Healing Through Suffering

By Jim O'Brien

Yesterday I had lunch with a truly unforgettable person. He is a retired Physics professor who was, for a few years during his early life, a prisoner in a Nazi concentration camp. He is a brilliant man and yet quite humble. He speaks four languages, has an excellent knowledge of history, has traveled the world and reflects a rare understanding of life. He talked about the death of his father in Auschwitz, how the Nazis had kept such detailed records that, after the war, he was able to find recorded accounts of the day his father entered Auschwitz and the day he was killed. Despite the horror, such insanity made both of us chuckle.

He told me of a Rabbi who smuggled a miniature scroll into Bergen Belsen, the same prison camp he was in. He used it to prepare a Jewish boy for bar mitzvah, which was accomplished in the camp. Imagine observing a ceremony acknowledging you've become a man—in a prison camp. The Rabbi gave the scroll to the boy telling him that he did not expect to live through the experience. The boy grew up to become a Physicist and the scroll was given to Ilon Ramon, the Jewish astronaut who perished in the Columbia space disaster. The irony is that my friend was in the same concentration camp as the boy who observed his bar mitzvah there. He also has a tiny scroll that survived the camp. He is also a Physicist. He loaned his scroll to use in a ceremony as a substitute

for the one lost in space. So many coincidences that he wants to believe God was involved with his life yet, as he says, "I have a few issues with God."

Several years ago I had a house built by a man who was Jewish. He had an aunt who lived through the holocaust and did not believe in God because of the terrible experience. I think it is incorrect to say these people do not believe in God. They are angry at him. "There cannot be a God that could allow such things to happen" was her statement. My friend did not use those words because he is less angry and is a genuinely humble man. But it was easy to read his thoughts.

It deepened my conviction about something I learned long ago. The Messiah had to suffer. It is inconceivable that God would require more of mere man than he did of the Messiah. If character is developed through suffering and standing alone—risking everything for a righteous cause—could that be the domain of man and not God? The thought resonated with my friend sitting across the table. If Jesus was not the Messiah, then the Messiah to come would have to go through all the things Jesus went through. It was the same issue the Apostle Paul dealt with 2000 years ago when he convinced many Jews to accept Jesus as the Messiah. It is something traditional Christianity has overlooked.

For me, the central issue about healing has only recently come to

the surface of cognitive thought. We are healed through suffering. The difference between Winston Churchill and Adolph Hitler demonstrates one of the essential characteristics of healing. Hitler was too sensitive to suffer so he was incapable of effecting healing among the German people. He could rule over them like any other tyrant. But the difference between a tyrant and a leader is the willingness to suffer *with* people. Churchill walked among the rubble and experienced the same pain as all the other citizens. While Hitler was cowering in the bunker, Churchill was walking among the ruins, visiting soldiers at the front, taking a ship's gun in hand ready to engage the enemy in battle alongside a sailor. That experience gave him the ability to speak words that healed the nation. Hitler risked nothing yet lost everything. Churchill risked everything and gained freedom for the world.

When the Apostle Paul refers to Jesus as the High Priest he uses these words. "Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" (Hebrews 5:6-9).

continued on page 4 . . .

*Where Have We Gone Wrong?
continued from page 1 . . .*

you knew you had a God, and you invoked his name often at your public assemblies and you honored my Ten Commandments.”

Whose Fault Is It?

“Here is what I want to know: How did I fail you that you have gone away from me? You pursue worthless things and have become worthless because of it. Why is it that you don’t say, ‘Where is the God who gave us this great and rich continent, who saw us through wars, who granted a new birth of freedom to the slaves we had oppressed?’ Why don’t you remember how I gave you this great land, how you claimed it in my name, how it yielded its riches to you? Was it evil of me to make you work for it? But when you entered this land, you defiled it.

“I’ll tell you who I blame for a lot of this. It didn’t start with the political leaders, but with priests and pastors—people educated in the Bible. But they didn’t even know me. They broke my laws routinely, and prattled on about worthless things. But I will still try to make you understand. The pagans don’t forsake their gods which are not gods at all. They are more loyal to them than you are to me.

“Be astonished, O ye heavens, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith the LORD. For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

“You built this great edifice of a nation on shifting sands. You

thought you built great wealth, but like water in a broken cistern, it seeped away and you didn’t even know it was happening. You built much wealth on the backs of slaves, and turned your land to waste and burning in a great civil war. You bought all this on yourself in that you left off to be guided by me.”

What Was Missing?

“And what do you think you are doing now, going to other nations to find the water to replace what you have lost? Your own wickedness will correct you, and your backsliding will reprove you. Know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the LORD GOD of hosts.

“I set you free in this land, says the creator, and you said, ‘I will be faithful.’ But you wander from bed to bed playing the harlot. I planted you here a noble nation, a truly right seed. How is it that you are turned into a degenerate country, a strange land to me. I don’t even know you. Go ahead, wash yourself with soap, but you won’t remove the stain. I can still see it. How can you say, ‘I am not polluted. I haven’t gone after other gods’? You are like an ass in heat. I said that you should not make yourself naked, nor drink too much. But you said, ‘No, I love strangers, and I will go after them.’

“As the thief is ashamed when he is found, so you are going to be ashamed. Your preachers and your congressmen have gone after idols, they have made houses and cars their gods. They pursue power, not to govern well, but for its own

sake. They have turned their backs on me, but in time of trouble they will declare a day of prayer, call out for me to help. But where are your gods, people? Let the ones you have been worshiping save you. You have as many gods as you have cities. Why are you asking help from me? You have turned away from me. It hasn’t accomplished a thing when I smote your children in correction. They don’t take it as correction.

“Tell me this, people. Have I failed you somehow? Am I the cause of your darkness? Or is it because you have said, ‘We are lords, we have no need to go to God.’ Can a maid forget her ornaments, or a bride her attire? Yet my people have forgotten me for days without number. How skilled you are at pursuing love! Even the worst of women can learn from your ways. On your clothes men find the lifeblood of the innocent poor. I didn’t have to search for it, it was on all your clothes. And yet you say, ‘I am innocent, surely God’s anger will turn from me.’ You wish.

“Know this. Running around to negotiate with the nations isn’t going to buy you a thing. Why? Because you claim you are innocent when you are guilty as sin. Your problem is that God has long since rejected the nations you are going to in a vain attempt to solve your problems. You will go anywhere but to me.”

Now, how can I say that this is what a prophet might say to us, should God care enough to send one? Well, it is only a paraphrase of what he said through a prophet to nation very much like ours. You

continued on page 4 . . .

*Where Have We Gone Wrong?
continued from page 3 . . .*

can read the original in Jeremiah, chapter two.

I have much more to say about this, and I do in a forthcoming program titled, *Where Have We Gone Wrong?* It won't air for some weeks, but it is important enough that you get your own CD of the program as soon as possible. The CD is *FREE*. All you have to do is check the enclosed card and send it back to us.

That CD is *FREE*, but we could really use your help. In the days that come, we feel a strong desire to tell those who will listen what is happening and why. It is a painful message, but not heeding it will be still more painful. So if you can make a contribution to help us get this job done, we will be faithful to use it well.

*Healing Through Suffering
continued from page 2 . . .*

All forgiveness of sin in the Old Testament looked forward to the time when God would suffer with man. There could be no other way for man to be healed. And forgiveness and healing are inseparable. Maybe that is what is so pathologic about some of the self-appointed false prophets who dot our landscape. They teach the government of God apart from suffering. They are so willing to condemn men, even brothers of the faith, to the tribulation and Gehenna fire. They see their job as accusing mankind, not as repairing the breach. They do this because they are not willing to suffer with people. Therefore they are incapable of healing.

Special Offer **Origins of Evil** **CD Album**

Is there really a spirit world? If so, what is it? Can you prove there is a spirit world? Should you be afraid of it? How does it exist? What are the real facts? There is a spirit world! There is also evil in this world. These are facts! But, what are the origins of evil? Ronald L. Dart answers these questions and more. Understand how demonic and human evil impact our world and can affect your life. This album consists of seven *Born to Win* programs on four CDs. It is normally priced at \$17.95, but we're making you a *special offer of \$14.95* until March 1, 2009.



In Memory

Christian Educational Ministries gratefully acknowledges a generous donation made in memory of Dan Anderson of Cottonwood, CA who passed away peacefully in his sleep. Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers go out to Jean, his wife of 55 years.

Christian Educational Ministries

Statement of Cash Flows
For the Three Months Ended
October 31, 2008

Receipts:	
Contributions	\$306849
CEM Bookstore	52497
Other Income	2387
	<u>\$361733</u>

Expenses:	
A/V Supplies	\$ 8028
Occupancy	8047
Office & Adm. Expenses	6246
Mailing Expenses	7732
Postage	21299
Printing	14409
Radio Expenses	188644
Telephone & Utilities	4080
Editorial Services	4982
CEM Bookstore	4631
Employee Benefits	9323
Wages & Payroll Taxes	86391

Total Operating Expenses	<u>363812</u>
Decrease in Fund Balance	(\$ 2079)

Feast of Tabernacles Statement of Operations 2008

Total Offering	\$56563
Total Expenses	53102
Carryover to 2009	\$ 3461

Christian Educational Ministries

PO Box 560
Whitehouse, Texas 75791
phone: 1.888.BIBLE.44
fax: 903.839.9311
email: adm@borntowin.net
website: www.borntowin.net

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