

## Finding Inspiration

from a previous Ronald L. Dart program

One night, I found myself wishing I had something inspirational to read. From time to time I come across a book or an article that has a piece in it that really lifts me, that helps me get my head up and look around, and gets me up out of the rut. One that makes me lift my eyes to the skies, makes me want to be my better self. One that gives me a lift and pushes me on. My problem was, I didn't have a thing in the house that met my need that I hadn't already read, or wasn't already bored with, or something of that nature. And I've heard a lot of people express the same concern, the same desire, the same need, as it were, for something inspirational—a CD or a book or something—to give them a lift from time to time.

Now I am going to tell you what bothered me the most about that evening. I probably have a dozen Bibles in the house. I had a Bible close to hand on more than one occasion as I wandered around looking at bookshelves. If any one of them had been a poisonous snake, I would be a dead man as a result of it, because they were so close. But I did not feel like picking up my Bible and reading

it for inspiration. That bothered me. And, I think it should have bothered me.

### What are we looking for and not finding?

How is it that we might not find the Bible our number one source of inspiration? Here's an illustration that might help us go to the source of this problem. The illustration is short, the Scripture that follows it is a little longer.

Let's consider a man who is consumed with the idea of doing a great work for God. He wants to accomplish great things. He wants to build a house for God—a place where God can rest and put up his feet. This man is going to do many religious acts in God's name and for God. He is very ambitious.

In Isaiah 66, the whole

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chapter addresses the person who thinks he will do great things for God, yet, may be a person like I was on that night—looking around for inspiration and not finding it, when it is often within arm's length. This is what Isaiah said: "Thus saith the LORD, the heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool." What do you mean—you're going to give God a place where he can sit down

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## Changing Lives. . .

CEM gives away far more material than we sell. If a person cannot afford to buy CDs, YEA books, or Bible study 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, and are much appreciated.

# The CEM Feast... 2010

## Ft. Walton Beach, Florida

By Skip Martin, Festival Association Chairman



Many of us are familiar with the words of a hymn that go like this: “All things are ready, Come to the Feast.” Well, all things aren’t quite ready, but they are well under way.

CEM’s Festival Association is an all-volunteer group that works diligently each year to make sure the Feast is spiritually uplifting, with activities that are fun for all and provide many opportunities for fellowship and bonding.

Children and teens love to be where the action is. Enthusiasm, excitement, and other young people their own age are sure to attract kids like a picnic attracts ants! And YEA classes and seminars are where you’ll find loads of action and excitement. YEA is already staffing classes and timely, relevant, and fun lessons are being prepared.

We are filling up our seminar program with what looks to be an excellent schedule. As in past years, seminars will be held for one hour before the morning worship service, at the same time as the YEA classes on all days except the weekly Sabbath and annual Holy Days.

The CEM music program is second to none. Each day we’ll

sing a mix of traditional hymns and contemporary songs, and have some excellent special music. This year, plans are being made to set aside one day for only traditional and Southern Gospel hymns.

We will have our “old favorite” activities this year, such as a Pie and Ice Cream Social, Fun Show, Family Picnic, Youth Day, Young at Heart Dance, Seniors Luncheon, Young Adult Worship Service, Family Dance, and Golf. We are trying to fit into that very busy schedule some new activities, such as a Seniors Dance after the luncheon, an Old Time Gospel Hour, Sabbath Afternoon Bible Studies, Receptions, and Fellowships.

We plan to have another fine speaking schedule this year. As many of you know, Ron Dart is making great progress in his recovery from an accident. Ron will be giving up his hospital bed for physical, occupational, and speech therapy on June 1. We hope and pray for Ron’s total and complete recovery prior to this year’s Feast of Tabernacles. Only the future will tell how many times Ron will be able to speak this year. In the event that Ron isn’t able to deliver the four

Feast sermons that he normally gives, we are prepared to fill any slots with excellent speakers.

Ron and I have had many discussions about the time when he won’t be able to speak at the Feast. Ron has always insisted that we carry on—that the Feast is much bigger than he is—than any individual is. In any case, the Feast **MUST GO ON!** The CEM Festival Association is carrying on with planning the best Feast ever.

Please continue to pray fervently that God will rapidly and completely heal Ron so he can go back to work and can encourage us at the Feast.

We are also very much aware of the oil leak in the Gulf. Keep this situation in your prayers as well. However, the CEM Feast will go on, God willing.

Opening night services at the CEM Feast of Tabernacles will begin Wednesday, September 22, at 7:30 p.m. Check CEM’s website, [www.borntowin.net](http://www.borntowin.net), for details. Come join us and celebrate God’s festival with a happy and receptive heart. See you there.

*Finding Inspiration  
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and put his feet up? “For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD.” You want to impress God? You want to know what he is looking for in a man? God looks to “him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembles at my word.” That’s what God wants to see.

And, as far as the Bible is concerned, I think we have, for far too long, ceased to tremble at the Word of God. It has become common to us. We have so many Bibles. The Bible is so common, that I can take it for granted. I can toss it in the back seat of my car.

***The Word of God  
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The actual Words of God in the Bible are relatively few. If you went through the Bible and took all the red letter words of Jesus and put them in a book, then went back to the Old Testament and took all the words God actually spoke to man, and put them in the book, the book would not be very large.

The Word of God is precious. And you would think that people who believe in God, want to know God, and would like to call themselves a friend of God, would be very well acquainted with God’s Word. God says he is looking for a person who is poor

—who’s humble—has the attitude of a poor person. And who is contrite. Contrite means crushed. And who trembles at his Word.

### **We are suffering from a massive loss of respect for the Word of God**

It is almost as if we think that being religious is good enough, or that having knowledge is all it takes. I think the following verse is rather striking: “He that kills an ox is as if he slew a man; he that sacrifices a lamb, as if he cut off a dog’s neck; he that offers an oblation, as if he offered swine’s blood; he that burns incense, as if he blessed an idol.” What was he talking about? Why was this so?

He was talking about acts of worship that took place in the Tabernacle or the Temple of God. The person who killed an ox in sacrifice, the person who actually came in and sacrificed a lamb, might as well have cut off a dog’s head as far as God is concerned. These were great religious acts. They built God a house, did all these religious acts, killed all these animals in sacrifice. They were wasting their time. Nothing going on there was worthwhile. In fact, it was actually rather bad. Why?

He said, “Yea, they have chosen their own ways, and their soul delights in their abominations.” Therefore, God said, “I also will choose their delusions.” It’s almost as if God had a box full of delusions, and he said, “Let’s see, which one of the delusions do I want to use on these people?”

“And I will bring their fears upon them; because when I called, none did answer; when I spoke, they did not hear; but they did evil

before my eyes, and chose things that I took no delight in.”

***Could it be dangerous  
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Has he called, and no one  
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Think about that. “I will bring their fears upon them.” Is it possible God might choose from a selection of delusions that ends up bringing upon us the very thing we fear the most? Why not? He did it to Israel. Could it be dangerous to assume that God would not do this to the church? Has he called, and no one was listening? Space does not allow me to say all you need to hear on this subject, so I want you to have a *FREE* CD of this program titled, *Finding Inspiration*, because it is imperative that you listen carefully to every word. Time could be running out for us to listen and act. To receive this *FREE* CD, simply check the box on the enclosed card and return it to us in the envelope provided for your convenience.

### *In Memory*

CEM gratefully acknowledges a generous donation given in memory of Tony Hubbard, of Cottondale, Alabama, who passed away on April 8, 2010 from brain cancer. Our deepest sympathy and heartfelt prayers are with his wife, Tonya, and their two sons; and to his family, including Rufus and Debbie King.

## His Enemies Understood What His Disciples Did Not

By Lenny Cacchio

The chief priests and Pharisees took Jesus more seriously than his own disciples did. At least it appears that way in one instance.

Jesus had been crucified and sealed in his tomb. The disciples had scattered to the four winds, evidently afraid for their lives. In spite of Jesus' many references to his impending death, they didn't seem to grasp that he meant what he said. He was, after all, the Messiah—the one who was to redeem Israel. How could the great Messiah be a dead Messiah?

Neither could they grasp his sometimes cryptic references to his resurrection from the dead. Early in his ministry such oblique comments as “destroy this temple and raise it up in three days” did not exactly spell out what the game plan was. Later on, as the day approached, he would call his disciples aside and tell them clearly what was about to happen. Still, they didn't grasp it. “Far be it from you, Lord, that this should happen to you,” they said, as if the very destiny for which Christ came did not need to be fulfilled, that we would not need a Savior to conquer our worst enemy.

The irony in all this is that the chief priests and Pharisees knew exactly what Jesus was saying. After the crucifixion they approached Pilate to ask of him a favor: “Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise.’ Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, ‘He has risen from the dead.’ So the last deception will be worse than the first” (Matthew 27:63-64 NKJV).

It would be nice to know how they came to understand this when Jesus' only clear references to his resurrection were to his disciples privately. Was there an informant among the disciples, a Judas-type, or even Judas himself? Did the private conversations become somewhat of a public discourse?

While we might not know how they came to understand Jesus' words, we do know this: Jesus' enemies understood what Jesus said and took it more seriously than his disciples did. Could it be that the enemies of Christianity today recognize the threat that the teachings of Jesus present to their worldview in ways that the followers of Jesus do not? Could it be that they see what we do not?



### *Radio Update*

**Chico, CA**

**KKXX 930 AM**

**M-F 12:30 p.m.**

**Sunday 10:00 a.m.**

**(Simulcast on both AM & FM**

**KKXX 104.5 FM )**

## Calendar of Events

**Feast of Tabernacles, September 22-30, 2010, Fort Walton Beach, Florida** - Come join us in celebrating the Feast of Tabernacles! This year we will be hosting events at the Emerald Coast Conference Center in Ft. Walton Beach, with opening night services beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 22, 2010. You will also be able to view all services from Ft. Walton Beach, Florida, via Video Live Streaming at: <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/cem-network>. We will be adding information on our website, [www.borntowin.net](http://www.borntowin.net), under the Feast of Tabernacles section as soon as we can. Please check back or call us at the office, 903-839-9300, or email Larry Watkins at [lsw@cemnetwork.com](mailto:lsw@cemnetwork.com). We'd love to see you there!

### *Christian Educational Ministries*

PO Box 560

Whitehouse, Texas 75791

**phone:** 1-888-BIBLE-44

**fax:** 903.839-9311

**e-mail:** [adm@borntowin.net](mailto:adm@borntowin.net)

**website:** [www.borntowin.net](http://www.borntowin.net)

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