

The Courageous Christian

From Ronald L. Dart's *Born to Win* Notes

I am always grateful when the news media, be it TV or print, give credit to people who have done very brave things. It is so good to see these people, to hear their voices, to see their facial expressions. And one of the best things about it is to see them so often made uncomfortable being called heroes. Maybe they are even embarrassed, as true heroes often are.

Our nation's highest honor

Not long ago, Peggy Noonan attended a dinner held in honor of the 114 living recipients of the *Congressional Medal of Honor*. I am glad she was there to tell us what she saw and heard. Ms. Noonan is a remarkably sensitive witness of important things, she writes very well, and I try never to miss one of her columns, although I am sometimes foolish enough to disagree with her.

The column she wrote about this dinner appeared in the online *Opinion Journal*, dated Thursday, March 30, 2006. She met and talked with several of those who had received the nation's highest military honor, and she chose to highlight one

gentleman named Nick Oresko.

"I met Nick Oresko. Nick is in his 80s, small, 5-foot-5 or so. Soft white hair, pale-pink skin, thick torso, walks with a cane. Just a nice old guy you'd pass on the street or in the airport without really seeing him. Around his neck was a sky-blue ribbon, and hanging from that ribbon the medal. He let me turn it over. It had his name, his rank, and then '1/23/45. Near Tettington, Germany.' Tettington, Germany. The Battle of the Bulge.

"When I got home I looked up his citation on my beloved Internet, where you can Google heroism. U.S. Army Master Sgt. Nicholas Oresko of Company C, 302nd Infantry, 94th Infantry Division was a platoon leader in

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an attack against strong enemy positions:

"Deadly automatic fire from the flanks pinned down his unit. Realizing that a machinegun in a nearby bunker must be eliminated, he swiftly worked ahead alone, braving bullets which struck about him, until close enough to throw a grenade into the German position. He rushed the bunker and, with pointblank rifle fire, killed all the hostile occupants who survived

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Hearts Aligned to Christ. . .

You are presented with many opportunities to align your heart with Christ's and to partner with him in the work he is doing through CEM. You align your heart with Christ when you study the Bible, pray, worship him in song and praise, and give your tithes and offerings. For nearly a decade and a half, CEM's goal has been to help you become more like Christ. The work CEM does cannot be done without your financial help and prayers. We are confident that God is working in your life, and we're grateful to you for allowing Christian Educational Ministries to play a role in that process.

For I Was Hungry and You Gave Me Food

By Debbie Clark

When the people of God are given an opportunity to help others, they come through with a giving heart. During the last two Feasts in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, CEM sponsored a food drive to help those in need in the area. It is hard to believe with the wonderful weather and glistening white beaches that anyone there needs help. Unfortunately, the economic downturn and gulf oil crisis have caused many local families to seek help. Answering that need is Sharing and Caring, a local, all-volunteer organization that provides food for people in emergency situations. They also help out with baby supplies and prescription medications.

Heather and Kristi Holmes shepherded last year's food drive. The Sharing and Caring folks were thrilled when they saw the conference hall lobby piled with donations on the Last Great Day. They said it was easily over \$1000 in supplies.

This year we collected 19 tubs of food and supplies plus \$745 in financial donations! The Sharing and Caring team asked me to pass on their thanks to all. We know, of course, that real thanks should go to the Lord that blessed us so abundantly with the means to celebrate his Feast and share that abundance with others.

We may not be in Fort Walton Beach next year, but wherever we are, we will be looking for opportunities to extend our help to others less fortunate.

Recommended Reading

The Apostle Paul told us in 2 Timothy 2:14 "Remind your people of these great facts, and command them in the name of the Lord not to argue over unimportant things. Such arguments are confusing and useless, and even harmful. Work hard so God can say to you, 'Well done.' Be a good workman, one who does not need to be ashamed when God examines your work. Know what his Word says and means" (TLB).

Excellent advice! So what does CEM offer to equip you on your Christian journey so God can say of you, "Well done"?

Ronald L. Dart has written several enlightening books to make Bible basics clear and understandable:

- ***The Lonely God*** - It is possible to understand God, but only on

his own terms, and only by his own revelation. When we try to go beyond what he shows himself to be, we risk creating God in our own image. God hasn't left us in the dark. He's given us a cloud of witnesses.

- ***The Thread, God's Appointments With History*** - A thread runs from the beginning to the end of the Bible that few seem to understand. There are specific points along that thread where God chose to act in history. In the Bible, these are called, "the appointments" of God, because these appointments seem to occur in connection with events in Jewish history. As you pick up *The Thread* and follow it, things you've often wondered about will become clear.

- ***Law & Covenant*** - These two ideas are fundamental to the message of the Bible, and yet they are shockingly misunderstood and misapplied. Law is about understanding God and his purpose for man. Covenant is closely related because it is about knowing God, personally, intimately, and about being in a relationship with him. Covenant is central to the Christian relationship with God.
- ***Time With God: Reflection on the Psalms 1-18; 19-35; 36-54; 55-73; 74-91; 92-114*** - Six biblically true and inspirational chap books will connect you to God as you reflect on the psalms. These books are designed for people with very little time to reflect and meditate on the Holy Scriptures.

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the grenade blast. Another machinegun opened up on him, knocking him down and seriously wounding him in the hip. Refusing to withdraw from the battle, he placed himself at the head of his platoon to continue the assault. As withering machinegun and rifle fire swept the area, he struck out alone in advance of his men to a second bunker. With a grenade, he crippled the dug-in machinegun defending this position and then wiped out the troops manning it with his rifle, completing his second self-imposed, 1-man attack. Although weak from loss of blood, he refused to be evacuated until assured the mission was successfully accomplished. Through quick thinking, indomitable courage, and unswerving devotion to the attack in the face of bitter resistance and while wounded, M/Sgt. Oresko killed 12 Germans, prevented a delay in the assault, and made it possible for Company C to obtain its objective with minimum casualties.”

Now the point

Great writer that Peggy Noonan is, this story was really the set up for a point she wanted to make. An idea that should resonate with every one of us. She then talked to another man.

“I talked to James Livingston of Mount Pleasant, S.C., a Marine, a warrior in Vietnam who led in battle in spite of bad wounds and worse odds. I told him I was wondering about something. Most of us try to be brave each day in whatever circumstances, which

means most of us show ourselves our courage with time. What is it like, I asked, to find out when you’re a young man, and in a way that’s irrefutable, that you are brave? What does it do to your life when no one, including you, will ever question whether you have guts?

“He shook his head. The medal didn’t prove courage, he said. ‘It’s not bravery, it’s taking responsibility.’ Each of the recipients, he said, had taken responsibility for the men, and the moment at a tense and demanding time. They’d cared for others. They took care of their men.

“‘It’s not bravery, it’s taking responsibility.’”

This was stunning to me, and I recognized it immediately as true.

Sergeant York

Are you familiar with the movie *Sergeant York*? It is eerily similar to the first story Ms. Noonan cited. If you have never seen this movie, you owe it to yourself to see it. Alvin C. York was a pacifist who didn’t believe in killing. His officer asked him after the battle why he did what he did.

“Well I’m as much agin killin’ as ever sir. But it was this way Colonel. . . When I started out I felt just like you said, but when I hear them machine guns a goin’ and all them fellas are droppin’ around me. . . I figured them guns was killin’ hundreds maybe thousands and there weren’t nothin’ anybody could do, but to stop them guns. And that’s what I done.”

It ain’t for buying or selling

He took responsibility and saved

the lives of many fellow soldiers. Later, when someone wanted him to do something commercial to capitalize on his fame, he said this: “What we done in France we had to do. And some as done it, didn’t come back. And that kind of thing ain’t for buying and selling.”

These men are a little embarrassed at being called heroes, and I can appreciate that. Because, in a strange way, it diminishes what they have done. A man in the Bible came immediately to mind. Do you think of the men of the Bible as special to God? They were a living walking miracle, and could we ever be like them? Have you thought that they didn’t have to be brave, because of their faith? There may be something in that, but there also may be something else.

Learn from men of God

There are so many things you can learn from hearing Ronald Dart go through examples of men of God. Here is your opportunity to learn the reality of responsibility. You’ll hear echoes of Nick Oresko and Sergeant York. They did what had to be done. They took responsibility. Sergeants Oresko and York cared for their men.

You need to get this *FREE CD* to hear for yourself how one particular man of God considered responsibility and duty a fact of life. Among Christians today are those who are willing to take responsibility, and they deserve our respect and our backing. But it isn’t bravery or foolhardiness that motivates these men. Bravery is required, but it is responsibility that motivates.

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Courageous people are not a dime a dozen, but they may be more common than we think. Without them, we aren't going anywhere.

There is another thing you'll learn from this *FREE*, most inspirational *Born to Win* CD titled, *The Courageous Christian*: what it is that allows us to be what we are. Please don't miss out on this most important message. It's *FREE*, and we want *you* to benefit from it. Just check the box on the enclosed card and mail it back to us today. You'll be glad you did.

In Memory

CEM gratefully acknowledges a generous contribution received in memory of the following, who passed away this past year: Teddy Faul, the son of Georgia Faul of Mandan, North Dakota; Otto Lennick, father of Jackie Kermit and Sandy Knowlen of Dickinson, North Dakota; Darlene Daly, wife of Burton Daly, of Mandan, North Dakota; and John Lozensky of Max, North Dakota. Our hearts and prayers are with the families, and with the brethren in North Dakota as they mourn the passing of these friends and loved ones.

CEM is also very grateful for a most generous memorial given in honor of the anniversary of Jim Ross' death. He resided in Tyler, Texas at the time of his death. Jim was a very loyal supporter of CEM, believed in its mission, and was a vice president for the Bank of America.

- ***Digging Up Hebrew Roots—Is This the Faith Once Delivered?*** - A growing movement of non-Jewish Christians is immersing itself in customs, practices, and beliefs of Judaism thinking that true Christianity has its roots firmly in First Century Judaism. But does it? This book answers the questions: Did Jesus embrace Judaism or did Judaism reject Christ? Did Jesus intend to build his church on Judaism? Will digging up Hebrew Roots take you to a higher spiritual level, or lead you down a very dark path? This insightful book is co-authored by Ronald L. Dart and Pam Dewey.
- ***Doctrinal Self Defense, ANT Control in The Information Age*** - There is an endless stream of wannabe gurus peddling astounding new truths (ANTs) about prophecy, obscure doctrinal topics, hidden codes in the Bible, or lost keys to getting your prayers answered. It's astounding how easily these gurus gather followings through literature, recordings, websites, and broadcasts, no matter how outlandish the claims. This book is designed to help a church infested with these ANT's, or an individual trying to make sense of it all. Co-authored by Ronald L. Dart and Pam Dewey.
- ***Field Guide to the Wild World of Religion*** - The American religious scene in 1955 was tame and predictable. Fifty years later, the predictable world has gone in religion, as

it has in fashion and even toys. Welcome to the Wild World of Religion of the 21st century and gain understanding.

- **CEM also offers many booklets, Bible Study Notes, and Bible Study Courses** that are *FREE* to equip you on your Christian journey. Call or log on to www.borntowin.net for our *FREE* catalog.



Radio Update

Wausau, WI

WXCO 1230 AM

Sunday 9:30 a.m.

Charlottesville, VA

WKTR 840 AM

M-F 4:30 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday 8:00 a.m.

Marion, IL

WGGH 1150 AM

Saturday 7:30 a.m.

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