

Living to Win

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Christian Educational Ministries

Cold Comfort

From Ronald L. Dart's Broadcast Notes

I hope I don't shock you too much when I say that the Bible is not a particularly comforting book. I know the hope it gives is comforting. I know the relationship with God it offers is comforting. But one night, I was paging through the Bible looking for some comfort and I wasn't finding much. I wanted to read something to make me feel better, and I wasn't finding it.

It was a moment of revelation, in a way. Don't get me wrong, there are places in the Bible where I find great comfort, but the Bible is not a "feel good" book.

God doesn't send a prophet to tell us how well we are doing

It was after that night, when I was doing some study in the prophets that something else dawned on me. As far as I can tell, God never sent a prophet to tell people how well they were doing. So, when a prophet showed up on the scene, it was generally bad news.

When King Ahab, for example, saw Elijah walking his way, he said, "Have you found me, O my enemy?" Ahab had the picture, and it was confirmed by Elijah's

response: "I have found you," he answered, "because you have sold yourself to do evil in the eyes of the LORD. I am going to bring disaster on you. I will consume your descendants and cut off from Ahab every last male in Israel—slave or free (1 Kings 21:20-21 NIV).

That is not especially comforting, even if you aren't Ahab. But Elijah was not your smooth, slick preacher. He was a hairy man, wore leather, and if he appeared today, he would probably ride up on a Harley Davidson motorcycle.

Now, where is the comfort in

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this passage? Ahab repented, after a fashion. He tore his garments, fasted, wore sackcloth and went softly around the palace. And God relented, somewhat. He said he would defer the terrible things prophesied to the next generation.

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You Can Help Support the Born to Win Broadcast

A gentleman wrote: "This morning brought the news that CEM has removed the *Born to Win* program from KCKN 1020 AM in Roswell, New Mexico. While I am deeply disappointed that *Born to Win* has been removed from the local station, I understand that your resources are limited and they must be focused on markets that produce the most fruit. I have been blessed to hear *Born to Win* and my understanding of GOD's word has greatly increased due to the teaching of Ronald Dart. I am grateful for the opportunity to hear the program and I have enthusiastically supported the CEM ministry. . ." We greatly appreciate his support and attitude, and deeply regret that he can't hear *Born to Win* at this time. We must be good stewards of your tithes and offerings. As better stations come available, with your help, we hope to go on them.

Should You Expect Your Kids to Follow Your Religious Beliefs?

By Allie Dart

The adolescent years are difficult for parents and kids. As early to mid-teenagers gain their independence, they may not even want to be seen with their parents. Don't let it throw you when you're shopping in the mall with your kid and she doesn't want to be seen with you. This is just one step in your teen declaring his or her independence. But what if she resents having to go to church with you? Should your teenager be given freedom of choice regarding religious beliefs and practices? A common phrase you're likely to hear is, "I don't want you cramming your religion down my throat." So what do you do?

You are not nearly as likely to have this happen if you have been consistent since birth indoctrinating your children with the Bible and anchoring them to Christ—this is the key. And that is where YEA stands ready to help you. YEA publishes biblically accurate Sabbath School lessons for five different age groups, spanning 17 years of a child's life. These are designed to be taught at home, in Sabbath School classes, or in home schooling classes. These lessons begin with the Life of Christ series and chronologically go through the Gospels. The second year, all five age groups are taken to Genesis 1:1 beginning with creation, Noah and the flood, and the patriarch Abraham and his family. At YEA, we feel that a child or teenager is much more likely to comprehend and retain

the teachings of the Bible when the story is put in chronological order.

The third year, students learn about Bible Heroes, their weaknesses, strengths, and life lessons children and teens can learn. The teenage groups have 40 additional lessons—the Wisdom series. In addition to this, there is a special ten-lesson Holydays Supplement each year. These lessons explain the meaning of each of God's holy days, plus three lessons that explain why we don't observe Easter, Halloween, and Christmas. Then there are special lessons each year that are designed to be taught at the Feast of Tabernacles. If followed correctly, no lesson is ever repeated—the subject may be, but at a different level of understanding as a child matures.

If you, as a parent will use these fun and captivating, interactive lessons at home and encourage your pastor to start a YEA Sabbath School program, your children will soon be grounded in the faith and love learning from the YEA books.

But what if your child resents being told exactly what to believe and doesn't want your religion forced down his throat? Should you give your child autonomy in his religious belief system, or, is it appropriate for you as a parent to establish a Christian standard in your home? James Dobson says in his book, *Raising Teenagers Right*, "I would require my

seventeen year old teenager to attend church with the family. He should be told, 'As long as you are under this roof, we will worship God together as a family. I can't control what you think. That's your business. But I have promised the Lord that we will honor Him in this home, and that includes remembering the Sabbath to keep it holy.'"

Make an eternal difference in the life of your kids and the kids in your church or fellowship group by ordering YEA books and teaching these lessons to them. Call CEM at 1-888-BIBLE 44 and ask about discounted pricing for bulk orders. Don't forget to order one for each student and a Teacher's Guide for each age group. This one step will be the beginning of changing the world one student at a time.



Radio Update

Chattanooga, TN
WFLI 1070 AM
M - F 10:30 a.m.
S - F 6:30 p.m.

Cold Comfort
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Cold comfort, I suppose, but maybe better than none.

There is a prophet who speaks of comfort

“Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord’s hand double for all her sins” (Isaiah 40:1-2).

But this comes at the end of a long period of chastisement and correction.

A people who have been battered and bruised are at last being comforted—after having received of God’s hand double for her sins. So when you pick up your Bible to read, you aren’t picking up a short term comfort. What comfort you find in the Bible, and you do find it, is long term. “If in this life only,” cautioned Paul, “we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable” (1 Corinthians 15:19).

Why so many trials, so much pain in this life?

I am stepping gingerly around the edge of something very important. It has slowly dawned on me that God is not very concerned with my comfort. C.S. Lewis said something interesting in a story about having a toothache. He knew that if he told his mother that he had a toothache, she would give him an aspirin to dull the pain and he could get to sleep. But he put it off as long as possible because he knew his mother

would take him to the dentist the next day. And you know dentists, once you let them in your mouth, they find all sorts of things that need fixing. That process is sometimes very painful. It is an old saw that parents who had a hard life want to spare their children that. And so they will, if they are able, give them the moon.

What you need to know and never forget

Where I went to high school, we had a relatively small parking lot, because the only people with cars were teachers. When I drive by the high school here in Tyler, there is a huge parking lot full of the students’ cars. It is the perfect metaphor for what is wrong with the present generation. We talk much about baby boomers, but there are two very different problems with and for that generation. There are a lot of them. Their parents, who fought in the war and remembered the Great Depression, wanted to give them the moon.

God is not like those parents. God does not want us to have it easy. He expects us to get a job and pay our way as soon as we are able.

How can I say that God does not want us to have it easy when salvation is free? Yes, salvation is free and you can’t earn it.

Why is it that, having been saved, we have so much trouble?

God is after much more than merely saving our miserable hides. Did you know that not a single church mentioned in

Revelation 2 and 3 was found faultless? And after the evaluation each received, and the correction offered, the Spirit says this to the churches: “Who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God” (Revelation 2:7 NIV).

Why do you think your road should not be hard?

Over the years, I have heard endless speculation about the meaning of the seven letters of Revelation 2 and 3. Most of that speculation has been fruitless, and often misleading. But there is one thing that is perfectly clear, if you can hear it. Every single one of us, and every single church, has something to overcome. Learn with what and why God wants us to struggle, to improvise, adapt, and overcome from this inspiring *Born to Win* broadcast. Why should you think that your load should not be heavy? You need to learn what God’s ultimate goal is for you.

You will benefit greatly from getting this *FREE CD, Cold Comfort*, and learn the warning, “Let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The road ahead is not comforting. It is challenging.”

Yes, there are struggles, but they are for a purpose and they are worth the effort. This program is designed to help you when you face challenging struggles. Please order this *FREE CD* today. You’ll be glad you did.



What Would Jesus Say on Jay Leno?

By Lenny Cacchio

My oldest daughter first saw the movie, *Toy Story 3*, while studying abroad. She thoroughly enjoyed the flick, but had to admit that, when viewed in Spanish, some of the humor was lost in translation.

Sometimes I wonder if the same thing doesn't happen with the Bible. The Bible was composed originally in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek, and includes almost every genre of literature we know—poetry, history, biography, legal commentary, drama, philosophical treatises, personal correspondence, and just flat-out good storytelling.

But what about humor? Does it get lost in the translation? Or were the biblical authors, a gang of disgruntled prophets, detached journalists, and pious poets who couldn't be bothered with a bit of well-timed jesting?

Surely an accomplished storyteller like Jesus knew how to use a wisecrack or two to home in on a point or to grab the audience's attention with a good set-up line. Maybe he said something like: "A Pharisee and a tax collector walk into a bar. . ." Or, as the original has it, they walk into the Temple.

So I wonder if, when Jesus seizes upon a teachable moment with, "Whereunto shall I liken this generation?" his disciples craned their necks and turned their ears toward his words as much for the entertainment value as for the instruction. "What are

they like?" he continues. And maybe at this point he takes a pregnant pause. Picture here some nearby children at the marketplace chanting one of their playful sing-song games, and Jesus points to them as we hear these words: "A wedding song we played for you, the dance you simply scorned. A woeful dirge we chanted, too, but then you did not mourn" (Luke 7:32 International Standard Version).

Maybe this relatively obscure version called the International Standard Version captures what is otherwise lost in translation. I wonder if Jesus went on a little riff here, pointing out that the religious leaders of the day were like kids who had trouble sharing their sandbox with others. And then after a Jay Leno-like grin, did he draw the lesson about the curious differences between their whispering campaign against John the Baptist versus that against Jesus Christ?

If a Jay Leno or a P.J. O'Rourke can paint hilarious caricatures through verbal and expressive means, then surely Jesus could do the same.

And then Jesus says, "Ah, but wisdom is vindicated by all her children!"

People have puzzled over what this little proverb means, but maybe he was simply reminding us that the puffery of adult hypocrisy is easily deflated with a rhyming lance of a children's ditty.

Christian Educational Ministries Statement of Cash Flows for the Three Months Ended October 31, 2010

RECEIPTS:	
Contributions	\$262982
CEM Bookstore	32203
Other Income	1903
	<u>\$309588</u>

EXPENSES:	
A/V Supplies	\$ 3772
Occupancy	7680
Office & Adm. Expenses	4411
Mailing Expenses	2332
Postage	17384
Printing	16594
Radio Expenses	195351
Telephone & Utilities	4303
Editorial Services	2681
CEM Bookstore	2353
Employee Benefits	10559
Wages & Payroll Taxes	82608
Total Operating Expenses	<u>350028</u>

Decrease in Fund Balance (\$40440)

Feast of Tabernacles Statement of Operations 2010

Total Offering	\$39251
Total Expenses	40198
Applied Against 2009	<u>(\$ 947)</u>

Christian Educational Ministries

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