

To Know the Truth

From Ronald L. Dart's Program Notes

Would you say that we are living in the worst of times? Polls that are thrown at us daily indicate that most Americans think times are really bad.

However, Michael Barone, writing in *U. S. News* in 2006 said, "Things are better than you think. Yes, I know, most Americans are in a sour mood these days, convinced that the struggle in Iraq is an endless cycle of bloodshed, certain that our economy is in dismal shape, lamenting that the nation and the world are off on the wrong track. That's what polls tell us. But if we look at some other numbers, we'll find that we are living not in the worst of times but in something much closer to the best."

Then Mr. Barone goes on to support his point. "In 2005, as in 2004, the world economy grew by about five percent, according to the International Monetary Fund, and the IMF projects similar growth for several years to come. This is faster growth than in all but a few peak years in the 1980s and 1990s, and it's in vivid contrast to the long periods of stagnation or contraction in history. The great engine of this growth is, of course, the United States, which produces more than one fifth of world economic product

and whose gross domestic product has been growing at around four percent—4.8 percent in the latest quarter."

It is odd how dramatic these numbers are once you get them plainly stated on the page.

Other engines are China and India, each with about a sixth of the world's people, and with economic growth of ten and eight percent, respectively. But other areas are growing, too: Eastern Europe (five percent), Russia (six percent), East Asia (five percent), Latin America (four percent), even the Middle East (six percent) and Sub-Saharan Africa (5.5 percent).

What is surprising is how far behind Europe is. Lagging behind is the euro area (one percent) and the rest of western Europe (two

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percent). Lesson: Sclerotic welfare states produce mass unemployment and stifle initiative and innovation. In contrast, the Chinese and Indian growth rates show how freeing up an economy produces rapid growth, and the continued contrast between the United States and Europe makes the same point.

Free-market economic growth is enabling millions of people to rise

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Would You Fiddle While Rome Burns? . . .

Well, maybe we should say the good ol' USA—the nation that took the idea of a man walking on the moon and turned it into reality within eight years. How proud we were when Neil Armstrong walked on the moon more than 40 years ago! You believe in the future of America. But will it always be so great? Will you always enjoy the freedoms to which you've become accustomed? Can we afford to allow our collective inaction defy sanity? The *Born to Win* broadcasts are telling it like it is. Your support can help get the message on more stations and keep it on the air. You can even sponsor the broadcast on a station in your area. To learn how, contact Cathy Gibbons at 1-903-839-7070.

Attention: Low-Information Christians

By Richard Glasgow

Are you a “low-information Christian”? Since the 2012 election we’ve been hearing a lot about “low-information voters” or “lo-fo’s.” The term was coined by political scientist Samuel Popkin in 1991 and it referred to people who voted for politicians based on popularity as opposed to having substantial knowledge of the candidate’s political philosophy or background. The uninformed voter is more likely to vote for someone they perceive as “cool” or “good looking” or on the basis of gender, race, or sexual preference.

I’m guessing that most people wouldn’t want to be characterized as being “low-information” anything, but the odds are the “lo-fo’s” don’t even realize they are uninformed,

misinformed or ill-informed.

What is a “low-information Christian”? Do you know one? Are *you* one? Think of all the Christians who seldom, if ever question their own beliefs. For those who have questioned their belief system, is that a one-time proposition or a lifelong process of growth and overcoming?

In Matthew 5, Jesus likened Christians to salt. In verse 13, he said this: “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.”

A “low-information Christian” might never have even heard that warning from Jesus if he wasn’t

familiar with God’s Word. The Bible is replete with guidance about the need to self-examine and re-evaluate, and it shows us how to do it. It’s our “owners manual.” It contains everything we need to know about the Christian way of life.

The “low-information Christian” is missing out on the profusely abundant blessings God pours out on those who enthusiastically seek to learn more about him and his plan. Sadly—and scarily—too many Christians neglect the rich opportunity to learn more about God and Jesus and the adventure they are offering us. We can be involved in that adventure if we make it a daily part of our lives spending time reading that Book of Books.

A New Kind of Courage

By Ronald L. Dart

General Mustafa Talas, formerly Syria’s Minister of Defense, has been quoted as saying that Russia had promised nuclear weapons to Syria “if Israel were to launch a nuclear attack.” The Soviets were not amused, characterizing Talas’ claim as “sheer nonsense.”

Even so, it is worrisome to encounter such stupidity at such a high governmental level. Damascus, with a population of 1.8 million souls, is a mere five minutes from the northern border of Israel by jet bomber. By various estimates, Israel possesses from 25 to 140 nuclear weapons. If Israel were to

launch a well-timed preemptive nuclear strike against key military targets in Syria, who would be left?

Talas characterized his country’s willingness to “push the nuclear button” as “courageous.” Courage? So *that’s* what you call it. How much courage does it take to sit in a bunker somewhere in Syria and press a button that will, in minutes, incinerate a couple million men, women, children, and infants? If he had called it hatred or revenge it would have made sense. But *courage*?

At a time when the Philistines had a garrison in Bethlehem, David was in hiding nearby. In an

unguarded moment, he “longed and said, Oh that one would give me drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!” Three of David’s men fought their way through the Philistine guards, drew water from the well for David, and then fought their way out again. With classic understatement, Samuel calls these three “mighty men,” and casually informs us they did not compare to the *first* three warriors in David’s band (2 Samuel 23:14-29).

David’s response to this act of heroism is instructive. He declined to drink the water, but “poured it out unto the Lord.” He said, “Be it far

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out of poverty every year, even more than the experts expect. As the IMF writes, “The momentum and resilience of the global economy in 2005 continued to exceed expectations.”

- One thing that continues to surprise is that we are able to achieve this growth without runaway inflation. Remember what things were like about the time of the Jimmy Carter presidency.
- My wife was selling real estate then and she recalls selling two houses with an interest rate of 19%. That caused payments on an old two bedroom home to be excessively high.

It’s worth noting, as the IMF does, that this growth is being achieved with minimal inflation. “The present era of globalization and low inflation has an important precedent: 1880-1914, the era of the classical gold standard,” it says. That period ended with the outbreak of World War I, and there is no guarantee that the current low-inflation growth will continue. There are always downside risks in the economy. But we seem to be living by far in the best economic times in human history.

Did you catch that last? We seem to be living by far in the best economic times in human history. Then why is everyone so pessimistic about the economy of the world? Maybe it is because of the conflicts around the world.

Michael Barone goes on to address this issue. But aren’t we also living in times of record strife? Actually, no. Just the opposite. The Human Security Centre of the

University of British Columbia has been keeping track of armed conflicts since World War II. It reports that the number of genocides and violent conflicts dropped rapidly after the end of the Cold War and that in 2005 the number of armed conflicts was down 40 percent from 1992. Wars have also become less deadly: The average number of people killed per conflict per year in 1950 was 38,000; in 2002 it was just 600. The conflict in Iraq has not significantly changed that picture. American casualties are orders of magnitude lower than in the conflicts in Korea and Vietnam, and precision weapons have enabled us to vastly reduce the civilian death toll.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said in his letter to President Bush, “Liberalism and western-style democracy have not been able to help realize the ideals of humanity. Today those two concepts have failed.” That’s obviously nonsense, of course. Free markets and democracy are chalking up one ringing achievement after another—as we can see from the surge in world economic growth and the reduction of armed conflict—while the Islamists can achieve their goals only through oppression and slaughter. Yes, they can inflict severe damage on us by asymmetric warfare, as they did on September 11, and we must continue to take determined action to prevent them from doing so again. Today, a nuclear Iran and North Korea are severe threats. But contrary to what you may think, we shouldn’t lose sight of the fact that, in most important respects, our civilization is performing splendidly.

- That optimism comes as something of a shock, doesn’t it?

- Does it occur to you to wonder why people are so worried? Consider the huge flap over gas prices. How many times have you heard the phrase “Big Oil,” and about all the damage they are doing to the economy? If you’ve recently been on a road trip, did you notice any difference in the number of cars on the road? And have you considered that gas prices here are as low as any in the world except in the oil rich countries?

Do you recall the flap over prescription drug prices and the expression “Big Pharmaceuticals”? We have the best health care in the world. The best economy in the world.

Three cars in every garage, and we can afford the high price of fuel. So why are we so fretful? Big Media. Big Media is far more dangerous than Big Oil or Big Pharmaceuticals. Big Media can take us to the place where our young men and women don’t want to serve in the military. And then they will moan and groan when we have to reinstitute the draft. And they will place the blame everywhere except where it belongs.

The advantage of being Big Media is that you can decide who to blame and you never have to blame yourself. Big Media think they have the right to decide who will be in Congress and who will be in the White House. And if they make a mistake and their candidate turns out to be a pettifogging demagogue who takes bribes and corrupts the legislative process, they can simply blame someone else.

It absolutely staggers the mind to consider what CBS and Dan Rather tried to pull off in the 2004 elections.

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They so wanted John Kerry as President, that they tried to palm off forged documents to support a story. Do you remember when NBC faked an explosion in a pickup truck to show how gas tanks weren't safe? It really boils down to one thing. There is no one in Big Media whom we can trust to tell us the truth. So how can we ever know?

Here are two words and an idea: The first word is Epistemology—the branch of philosophy that deals with knowledge, especially with regard to its methods, validity, and scope. It comes from the Greek: *epistamai*—to put the mind upon; i.e., comprehend, or be acquainted with—know, understand. The second word is Wisdom. A person is said to be wise when he or she has or shows a combination of experience, knowledge and good judgment.

The idea is “world view” and Ron Dart talks about that in this *Born to Win* CD, *To Know the Truth*. It is a must for you to get a *FREE* CD of this *Born to Win* program. You will learn how the mind was created to be a truth detector, the importance of loving and guarding the truth, and the dire consequences of not doing these things. Call us at 1-888-BIBLE-44 or return the enclosed card to get your own eye-opening message.

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

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from me, O Lord, that I should do this: is not this the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives?”

In those days of hand-to-hand combat, courage had real meaning. A warrior could not distance himself from the blood, pain, and death of battle. Maybe that was the reason they kept a sense of the value of life. David was sure that a jug of water was not worth one man's life. Great commander that he was, he refused to participate in foolhardy gestures. If men had to die, let it be for something worthwhile.

One is left to wonder how many combatants in the Middle East today have any clear idea of what they are fighting for. For most, it's not a matter of objectives—it is a matter of hatred and revenge. Among all the belligerents in the Middle East, the Israelis probably have the clearest view of an objective. Their goal is to survive. For them, it is fight or die. It would seem that Syrians *do* have a choice.

One is led to wonder whether

the Syrians have contemplated what might cause the Israelis to use nuclear weapons. The Israelis have a great deal to lose if they callously strike out with such weapons. Why would they do it? One Israeli leader gave us a hint when he warned that if Israel goes down, she will, like Samson, pull the temple of civilization down with her.

It seems unlikely that Syrians need fear a nuclear attack from Israel unless Israel herself is in imminent danger of defeat and destruction. Maybe what Syria needs is a Defense Minister who is willing to try for a negotiated settlement of tensions with Israel. So far, Syria seems more given to bluster than substantive results.



*Radio
Update*

New station in
Dallas, Texas
begins airing April 1!
KBXD 1480 AM
M-F 10 a.m.
Sat 9 a.m.

Feast of Tabernacles 2013

September 19-26, 2013; opening service September 18 at 7:30 p.m. CEM is looking forward to celebrating with you at our Feast home at the Emerald Coast Convention Center in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida. Christ is at the center of God's Holy Days, and this year at the Feast, CEM wants to put real emphasis on Christ's presence. The theme at the Feast is “Celebrate With the Master.” On our webpage

at www.borntowin.net, click on Feast of Tabernacles under the Events tab to find discount housing opportunities and a schedule of activities planned for 2013. Help by volunteering now. If you aren't sure what you might do to help, just send an email to Phil McCollum at cemfot@gmail.com or contact Paula Hughes at 1-888-BIBLE-44 or email paulahughes@borntowin.net. We really do need your help.