

Living to Win

February 15, 2014
Volume 19, Number 2
Christian Educational Ministries

A Passion for the Bible

From Ronald L. Dart's Program Notes

There was a generation, back in the founding of our country, that was biblically literate. All the great leaders of our founding and succeeding generations were Bible reading men, and the Bible was honored. In that generation you weren't educated if you hadn't read the Bible. It was just too dominant a feature of culture at the time. The Bible was widely read by statesmen and laymen alike. In many homes, it was the only book available. Some people learned to read from the Bible.

It's safe to say that in the 18th and 19th centuries, the Christian faith was far more informed by the Bible than our generations of Christians are right now. The Bible was variously interpreted, but it was nevertheless the final authority for belief and practice.

Christians No Longer Read the Bible Regularly

Now something entirely different seems to be the authority for belief and practice. This would never have happened in generations past. Why? Because everyone read the Bible. What seems singularly unfortunate is the obvious fact that Christians no longer read the Bible regularly.

The problem is, now that we've

gone astray, what can we do about it? Follow Ron Dart in this CD as he thinks out loud.

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Principal number one that we have to know: what comes too easily is not valued. Ron will remind you that when he first came

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What Are Your Choices in Hard Times? . . .

You may be experiencing hard times financially. We're finding it more difficult to make ends meet. Things are tighter financially at CEM. I'm shocked every time I check out at the grocery store at how much everything costs. We at CEM know it is tough. We pray for you and we greatly appreciate the sacrifices you are making.

But is the first place we should look for making up the difference in this inflationary environment to cut God out? God is our Partner. So will that work, or is God waiting to see your faith so he can bless you? It takes faith to obey God. It takes faith to tithe. But remember, the Great God sees your faith and he's waiting to reward it. We've tried it for more than 60 years, and we know it works. We don't have to worry and wonder when God's wrath will descend on us. We are his children trying to please him and he sees it.

Social Media Outreach for CEM

By Brooke Brookreson

Exciting things are happening with Christian Educational Ministries' online exposure and social media outreach. CEM has brought me onto their team to help restore and revive their worldwide-web presence and voice. I am also behind-the-scenes in helping to resume Sabbath Services, and scheduling their guest speakers.

In one month's time, CEM has been blessed to see their online participation soar, and their social media numbers triple. Interacting daily with their faithful Facebook followers, and friends, I post continual updates concerning the progress at our ministry. Please join us on Facebook, and see for yourself the good things that are happening. You can easily find us by entering "Ronald L. Dart" in the search bar. Look for "Christian Educational Ministries" as well. If you are not already on CEM's mailing list, or enrolled in their convenient *FREE* email subscription services, please sign up to show your support and tell them Brooke

sent you.

I plan to rebuild and re-establish CEM's discussion forum. The old hosting platform is dated, and unable to support growth. There have been a few unforeseen obstacles but I hope that it is up and functional by March 1st. We will let everyone know how to access the new forum when the new hosting platform is ready. All are welcome. We hope you will look around the house, and visit all the rooms, when I finally open the door. And when that time comes, please, make yourself at home. We hope, and pray, to provide a warm atmosphere for all of us to visit.

Perhaps the most exciting thing that is happening is my online blog project. As many well know, before his accident, Mr. Dart embraced the concept of blogging and enjoyed reading blogs while trying his hand at his own. He saw the great potential that personal blogging has in letting our lights shine, and spreading God's Word. This special blog project will be a network

directory of like-minds. The foundation of this blog network will be Sabbath-keepers, but all who love Christ will be welcome to join. CEM is anxious, and curious, to see how this endeavor grows, and they are proud to sponsor it.

Many businesses and religious organizations have experienced financial problems during this economic downturn. CEM relies on donations, and tithes, to keep their ministry going forward.

I firmly believe, and have faith, that CEM will benefit from this blog network by receiving direct tithes from this project as it grows. The bloggers who join will benefit as well. For more information, please call *Born to Win*, at 1-888-BIBLE-44 (1-888-242-5344) and ask for me, or email me at brooke@borntowin.net.

I look forward to talking with you about this special opportunity. Thank you all for your ongoing prayers, and support. God is oh so good.

What Our Listeners Say

"I just wanted to say what a blessing it has been these past few years that I've been listening to Ron's radio program. He was the first voice I heard one day when I was just scanning across the radio, something about his speaking and what he was saying drew me in, when I was lost in a world of sexual immorality, drug abuse, and complete worldliness. After studying along with Ron and many others, I was baptized 3 months ago and attend church regularly now. With the Lord's love and kindness and help, I have been able to make great changes in my life. I always think of Ron with such gratitude because he was the first one the Lord used to bring me in. He has such a wonderful way of teaching and explaining, and although he teaches the Word faithfully, it is done with such love and without condemnation, which was what I had had too much of before. When I heard about Ron's accident I was so sad, but he is in my prayers and I will always be grateful for what he has done. Please tell Ron that God used him mightily to reach someone most anyone would have thought was unreachable. I love you brother Ron."

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into the faith, there were no recording devices available. CDs and DVDs hadn't been invented as ways of recording things. There were no cassette tape recorders. There weren't even reel-to-reel recorders. There was virtually no television. But there was radio. There were books, and there was the Bible. Consequently we were dependent on two things, print media, and being physically present when and where the Bible was taught. That's how we got it.

People at that time thought nothing of driving two hours to church. Because that church was where the Bible was honored and was being taught. People sat through three hour services. Why? Because they were hungry, not for sandwiches, but for the "Word" of God. It may seem unusual to you that the people didn't want shorter sermons. They wanted to learn the Bible. They gladly sat through an hour and a half sermon. They sat there because that was how they were able to learn God's Word.

A Marvelous Invention

Then cassette tapes and recorders came along. That wonderful invention made it possible to listen to a sermon anytime and almost anyplace. A person could listen to it in bed at night. He could listen driving to work in his car. And she could listen ironing the clothes, or taking a walk. Make no mistake, it was a marvelous invention.

As It Became Easier to Hear the Word, It Tended to be Less Valued

Electronic media has played a very big part in turning us into a church

of consumers, rather than participants. But why should we be surprised? This is not a new phenomenon. The time was when the only place the average man had access to the "Word" at all, was in church. He had no Bible. He might not have even been able to read. There may not have been a Bible in his own language. They were in Greek, Hebrew and Latin. The priest would read the Scriptures and tell the people what they meant.

Two developments came about at about the same time, toward the end of the 15th century. The Gutenberg press came first. It was made possible by the invention of movable metal type. Second was the translation of the Bible into English by William Tyndale.

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William Tyndale

This gives you valuable knowledge what it was like for our forefathers. You can go to the Internet and look up William Tyndale. Wikipedia has a good summary of his life. He was born around 1494 and was educated at Oxford and got his bachelor of arts degree in 1512. He became a master of arts in 1515, shortly after he had been ordained to the priesthood at the age of 21. The MA degree allowed him to start studying theology, but the official course did not include the study of Scripture.

You may wonder how you can study theology without studying Scripture. Well, theology is the study of religion and religious belief and not necessarily the Bible. The horrified Tyndale organized groups for teaching and discussing the Scriptures.

Tyndale was a gifted linguist, fluent in French, Greek, Hebrew, German, Italian, Latin, Spanish, and of course English. His opinions got him in trouble fairly consistently. In 1522, he was summoned in and given the charge of heresy. Soon afterwards, he would determine he was going to translate the Bible into English. He was convinced that the way to God was through his "Word" and that Scripture should be available to the common people.

It was described that he had an argument with a learned and blasphemous clergyman who asserted to Tyndale, "We are better to be without God's laws than the Pope's." In a swelling of emotion, Tyndale made his response, "I defy the Pope and all his laws and if God spares my life, I will cause the boy that drives the plow in England to know more of the Scriptures than the Pope himself."

Do we really realize what a landmark occasion it was when this man did this? How it has changed our civilization? How it even laid the foundation for the creation of the United States of America? It was a powerful thing and a big change took place.

Poor Tyndale was strangled and his body burned at the stake in October 1536 because of religious persecution. Tyndale was a mere 42 year old man. Seventy-three years later, the King James Bible

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appeared and the consequences of that are incalculable.

Realizing what took place for you to have your own Bible, can you any longer take it for granted? William Tyndale was only one who lost his life. After what these men did for you to have your own Bible to study and take to church, how can you take it for granted and lay it aside thinking, "I'll read this later"? Making God's precious Word available to you did not come easily. These men didn't make those sacrifices so you could decorate your coffee table to impress people with your Christianity.

We Need the Bible to Know God

This CD gets to the basics that you need so badly. How are you going to know God without the Bible? Isn't knowing God a form of knowledge?

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Proverbs 1:7).

It's a Terrible Mistake to Take Bible Study for Granted

There is one spirit Christians need to recapture—it's Bible study. It required a greater amount of personal discipline than now when Bibles are so accessible. What if God goes silent to man as he has in the past and we have nothing left but the Bible? You need to order this *FREE CD, A Passion for the Bible*, and learn from a group of Lutheran Women in the Soviet Union. This will show you how there was a scarcity of the Bible, and all religious literature. Don't think this can't happen to us. "Behold, the days come, says the Lord God, I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, not a thirst for water, but a famine of hearing the words of the LORD" (Amos 8:11).

Paul wrote to Timothy, "Hold fast to the form of sound words." How do you do that? You do it with a passion for the Bible. You do it with a hunger for the grand meaning of God's word.

MP3- Will it Work for Me?

The staff at *Born To Win* has been getting a lot of questions about our MP3 formatted programs. We want to take a minute and answer some of the frequently asked questions such as, "What is it?" and "Will it work in my CD player?" The MP3 format allows us to get more messages on a single CD which improves efficiency and reduces costs. MP3 will play on most computers and DVD players, some CD players, and in newer model cars. If you would like to find out if the format will work on your equipment call or email and request item MP3SP and we will send you a *FREE* MP3 disk with a selection of programs available in that format. Try it. It just might work for you.

A Bible Memory Tool

By Linda Benton

I find memory work difficult, but know how important it is to know God's Word. This past summer, a dear friend introduced me to an interesting website that she uses to help her memorize Scripture. It is **Scripture Typer**, <http://scripturetyper.com>. This is a *FREE* Bible memory website that makes memorizing your Bible fun and easy. You can import the Scriptures you want to memorize from ten different translations or you can use one of their 55 category lists to begin your Bible memory adventure. This website allows you to memorize and review verses anytime, anywhere. They also offer an application for iPhone, Android, and Kindle Fire.

I encourage you to check it out. It has helped me and several friends with our Bible memorization. If you have found a Bible study tool that you find particularly helpful. Please call and let us know.

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