

Born to Win

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Newsletter of the CEM Network

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Personal from. . .

Ronald L. Dart

Dear Friend,

I first read "Mere Christianity," by C.S. Lewis more than 20 years ago and I still pull it down off the shelf once in a while. It is one of the most insightful books I have ever read on the Christian faith, and I am sure it is one of the most widely read. Lewis' purpose in writing the book was to discuss his reasons for being a Christian—not a particular kind of Christian, but a "mere" Christian. There were, he thought, some things that cut across the Christian faith and were in common to nearly every branch of the tree—or, as I recall him putting it, every room in the Christian house.

It is a tightly reasoned book, and includes some important insights that everyone who calls himself a Christian should at least read. The best thing about Lewis is his clarity. When you disagree with him, as you well may, it is easy to see where and why.

When I sat down to write a booklet on "Basic Christianity," I was looking over my shoulder at Lewis' work, but I was looking at something rather different. Lewis tackled the subject first by logic and sound reasoning. I am starting with the assumption that the Bible story is true and I wanted to

consider what the New Testament evangelists told us about Jesus at the most elementary level. Much of what divides and confuses the Christian faith is not the basic stuff. It is often high level theology which deals with matters not at all clear in the written record.

Moses wrote this down a long time ago, but it is still just as relevant today. He told Israel, "The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law" (Deuteronomy 29:29). And naturally, we busy ourselves about the secret things where we have no hope of certainty, and neglect the revealed things which are plain and easy to understand. It is the *revealed* truth that is the primary message of evangelism.

But among the revealed things are some subtle ideas that tend to get overlooked. When we set out to read the New Testament and the story of Jesus, it is easy to miss the simple fact that the Christian faith was not an entirely new religion. Christ himself was born of a Jewish girl and with a very important Israelite lineage. The forerunner of the Messiah,

John the Baptist, was the son of a priest. His father was a Levite, who got the announcement of his son (and the very first notice of the arrival of the Messiah) from an angel standing at the right side of the altar of incense in the Temple.

So with a nod to C.S. Lewis, I would like to offer you a free copy of a brand new booklet titled, "Basic Christianity, In the Beginning." The booklet starts with Matthew and Luke and takes an intimate look at the Christian faith in its earliest days. It contains important insights which can clear up some of the fog that surrounds the beginnings of Jesus' work. To get your copy, just check the box on the enclosed card and return it to us. The booklet is *free* but, as always, any contribution you can make will be a big help. Also, feel

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free to ask about the cost of multiple copies.

May God bless you as you continue to seek His will.

With love in Christ's service,

Ronald L. Dart

P.S. If you haven't seen a radio log in a while, be sure and ask for one. We have added some important new stations in the past few months. One may be in your area.

Radio Update

Please note the following new stations:

Hot Springs, AR
KXOW 1420 AM
Sunday 9:00 p.m.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN!

Do you want to make a significant impact on the lives of the Church's young people? Here's your opportunity. Men, we need your help with the YEA 2002 Feast Classes in Niceville. Staffing is currently underway and many dedicated, experienced volunteers have already signed up. But one important thing is lacking. We need more *male* volunteers so that every level class will have a male role model to provide the balance and perspective that's not possible without them! No teaching experience is required—just a genuine interest in working with the Church's next generation. Choose the age group you'd like to work with: ages 3-5, 6-8, 9-11, 12-15 or 16-19. There's no better way to provide leadership,

be a role model and make a difference in the lives of our children. Please contact Toni Coffee at tjcoffee@903internet.com or write to her care of CEM to sign up.



Tune in for the latest weekly broadcast.

March 16 - March 22

Knowing God 5

March 23 - March 29

Knowing God 6

March 30 - April 5

Knowing God 7

April 6 - April 12

Knowing God 8

April 13 - April 19

Christian Origins 50

Calendar Of Events

March 26th - Tyler, Texas Passover Services

Ronald L. Dart will be conducting Passover services on Tuesday evening, March 26, 2002, at the Tyler Church of God, located at 6094 New Copeland Road, Tyler. Services will begin 6:45 pm. For more information call Faye Brown at 1-888-BIBLE-44 or email to faye@cemnetwork.com.

March 28th - Terrell, Texas First Day of Unleavened Bread

Ronald L. Dart will be conducting services for the First Day of Unleavened Bread, Thursday, March 28th, in Terrell, Texas. We meet in the Fellowship Hall of the United Methodist Church, 503 W. College (behind the library). Services begin at 2:00, followed by a Pot Luck Meal. For more information call Ralph Collins at 817-246-1874 or call Faye Brown at 1-888-BIBLE-44.

April 3rd - Independence, Missouri Last Day of Unleavened Bread

Ronald L. Dart will be conducting services for the Last Day of Unleavened Bread, Wednesday, April 3, in Independence, Missouri. The meeting will be held at the Community of Christ Church at 31st and Chrysler in Independence. Fellowship, with finger foods, begins at 12:30 pm and services at 2:00 pm. For more information call Leonard Cacchio at (816) 524-2442 or email at Cacchio01@aol.com.

Growing A Community Church

What do you do if your church has no minister?
Can your church grow and thrive?

Ministers are very important to a church. But when God has not yet provided, Christians still have the responsibility to worship together and reach their community. Learn as you read the article below by Ron and Cynthia Saladin and share the joy of church growth in the St. Louis area. Growth has happened with compassionate leadership, dedication, a lot of hard work, and the inclusion of young and old alike in ministry.

Our group began meeting in a home each Sabbath, and by fall of 2000, we felt the need to secure a larger and more central meeting place. After visiting with the Captain of a Salvation Army building, we soon began meeting there. Without an ordained elder, we decided to continue with the open-Bible study format that had begun when only two or three families were meeting together in their homes. Now, many of the men take turns facilitating a discussion, which to date has been primarily focused on practical topics within the Christian walk.

There are obvious differences among us, but we try to be united in the essentials, have an attitude of freedom in the nonessentials, and exhibit love towards each other in all things. There has been a remarkable freedom within our group. Perhaps this is because of a generalized realization of our individual walk with our Savior – knowing that God is teaching us each new things as we are ready for them. And we do it because of the assertion “who are

you to judge another man’s servant?” We also realize that iron sharpens iron and that none of us has the whole truth yet. It could also be that we are all a little leery of another split and, not wishing to rock the boat, we avoid the nonessentials.

At any rate, our Sabbaths are very full: an hour or so of praise and worship in music and prayer requests, a ninety-minute Bible study, and two hours for potluck and fellowship. Our music worship service is a mixture of children’s songs, messianic music, contemporary songs, and traditional hymns. Once a month, the teens make sandwiches to take downtown to a homeless shelter.

We have about 20 adults in attendance, and perhaps 30 youngsters from infants to young adults. We have, at times, some difficulty with noise during the Bible study with that many youngsters. But they are all becoming more disciplined, and we have a nursery for restless preschool children. One adult and one teenager oversee the nursery each week. Usually we only miss one Bible study every two months. This is a small sacrifice we make with thanksgiving. All of us are very cognizant of the fact that children are a blessing from God and are not only the future of the church, *but they are very much a part of the church today.*

What keeps our children and young adults coming? Many of the

children might say, “Mom and Dad make me come.” However, five of our teens have been baptized. It is now their religion, not just Mom and Dad’s. They seem to really enjoy the opportunity available to them to participate in both the praise service and Bible study. In fact, about every three months, we turn the entire day over to them. They lead the song service (leading and playing the piano), facilitate the prayer request and thanksgiving section, and lead the Bible study. Those Bible studies have been very good – just as well received as the ones given by the older men. Additionally, we try to be alert to our young people’s abilities, interests, and strengths and try to find ways to encourage their growth. For example, if music is an interest, we try to make opportunities for its’ development.

The attitude of these kids is a direct result of parental influence. Most of the families home school or did home school their children. God was woven into their education, not systematically removed from it. Because most are/were home schooled there is a strong conviction that the youngest of the children benefit from listening to the Bible study. (And I must agree. I thoroughly enjoy listening to my 26-month old parroting words back. These catch his attention as the discussion swirls around and above his head while playing on the floor with his Sabbath bag of toys!) We

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Daily Radio

The *Born to Win* broadcast can be heard daily on these stations:

- Huntsville, Alabama**
3:30 p.m. daily - WBXR 1140 AM
- Montgomery, Alabama**
8:30 a.m. daily - WAPZ 1250 AM
- Jonesboro, Arkansas**
6:30 p.m. daily - KBTM 1230 AM
- Little Rock, Arkansas**
5:30 p.m. daily - KAAV 1090 AM
- Oakdale, California**
1:00 p.m. daily - KCBC 770 AM
- Denver, Colorado**
5:00 a.m. daily - KLT 670 AM
- Pensacola, Florida**
7:00 a.m. daily - WASG 550 AM
- Atlanta, Georgia**
7:00 a.m. daily - WZNO 1230 AM
- Atlanta, Georgia**
10:30 a.m. daily - WGKA 1190 AM
- Augusta, Georgia**
5:30 p.m. & 10:45 p.m. daily
WFAM 1050 AM
- Morrow, Georgia**
7:30 a.m. & 7 p.m. daily
WSSA 1570 AM
- Kansas City, Kansas**
4:00 p.m. daily - KCNW 1380 AM
- Richmond, Kentucky**
12:30 p.m. daily - WCBR 1110 AM
- Gretna, Louisiana**
4:30 a.m. daily - WLNO 1060 AM
- Denton, Maryland**
8:30 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. daily
WKDI 840 AM
- Jackson, Mississippi**
7:00 a.m. daily - WTWZ 1120 AM
- Omaha, Nebraska**
3:30 p.m. daily - KLNG 1560 AM
- Buffalo, New York**
4:30 a.m. daily - WDCX 99.5 FM
- Asheville, North Carolina**
4:00 p.m. daily - WSKY 1230 AM
- Mount Olive, North Carolina**
11:00 a.m. daily - WDJS 1430 AM
- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**
4:30 p.m. daily - WWNL 1080 AM
- Anderson, South Carolina**
9:00 a.m. daily - WRIX 1020 AM
- Charleston, South Carolina**
4:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. daily
WZJY 1480 AM
- Greenville, South Carolina**
4:30 p.m. daily - WELP 1360 AM
- Chattanooga, Tennessee**
5:00 p.m. daily - WLMR 1450 AM
- Knoxville, Tennessee**
5:00 p.m. daily - WITA 1490 AM

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don't have formal Sabbath School each Sabbath – primarily because the parents do it at home. This is not to say that formal Bible instruction has no place within Sabbath service. It's very valuable because it can be geared to specific age groups. In our fellowship, however, we have not yet implemented formal Sabbath Schools apart from the group.

Our youngsters also really enjoy

the opportunity to get together with others their age – both at services and for softball games. We have enough to field quite a team! In fact, Ron (Saladin) feels we can field one of the best Sabbatarian softball teams around and has been issuing invitations to any other groups that would like to “take us on.” Perhaps 2002 could be the beginning of a Sabbatarian softball league for fun and interaction among the young people, fellowship for all, and perhaps a trophy for the winning team each year. Such a league would be open to any Sabbatarian group that is interested in building friendships on what we share in common, with respectful courtesy toward our differences. If you're within a couple hundred miles of the St. Louis area and are interested, call Ron at (314) 351-7508 or voice mail at (314) 691-5494, and we'll exchange ideas.

This is just a glimpse into the Church of God Faith Fellowship. I'm not saying it's perfect or that it will work for anyone else, but right now God is working with and through us. And that's what counts. We humbly give Him thanks and pray for His continued guidance as we grow.

Daily Radio

The *Born to Win* broadcast can be heard daily on these stations:

- Dallas, Texas**
6:30 a.m. daily - KSKY 660 AM
- Jacksonville, Texas**
5:30 p.m. daily - KLJT 102.3 FM
- Ephrata, Washington**
6:00 a.m. Monday - Saturday
KTRW 970 AM
- The following stations broadcast daily at 2:30 p.m.**
- Ephrata, Washington**
KTAC 93.9 FM
- Moses Lake, Washington**
KGER 95.9 FM
- Pasco, Washington**
KGDN 101.3 FM
- Spokane, Washington**
KSPO 106.5 FM
- Wenatchee, Washington**
KTBI 810 AM
- Yakima, Washington**
KYAK 930 AM

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