

# Born to Win

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Newsletter of the CEM Network

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Personal from. . .

**Ronald L. Dart**

Dear Friends,

Have you ever considered what it would mean to you if you could only live a sinless life? Yes, I know it is generally considered impossible, but then how do we understand the biblical record on people like the mother and father of John the Baptist: "There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth. And they were both righteous before God, *walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless*" (Luke 1:5-6).

When you think carefully about this, you have to realize that there is no commandment of God, *considered alone*, that is impossible to keep. Why would God give us a law we couldn't keep and then punish us for not keeping it? And the benefits for living the sinless life are enormous. Thinking quickly through it, I came up with quite a list.

Living the sinless life would mean that you would be a happy person. It would mean a clear conscience. You would never have to be ashamed. You would be above reproach. You wouldn't have to endure reproach from men for things you deserve. It means

freedom. Liberty from oppression. Your companions will be God fearing people. It will mean that you are a person with uncommon, judgement and justice. It would mean that you are a person of uncommon wisdom and understanding. You would have great peace of mind and heart. It would mean you never hurt anyone. And would never have to apologize. It would bias life in your favor.

So, with all this in its favor of living the sinless life, who would not want to live that way? So why don't we? Because it isn't possible? That doesn't make a lot of sense. Not only do we have the example of Zacharias and Elisabeth, Paul says much the same thing of himself: "Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; *touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.*" (Philippians 3:4-6).

And early in the same letter, he calls on the saints to live blamelessly: "Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye

may be *blameless and harmless*, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world" (Philippians 2:14-15).

So what is our excuse? Well, by his own admission, we know that Paul was not really blameless. He wrote to Timothy, "that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief" (1 Timothy 1:15).

Now this is all rather confusing, but the Sermon on the Mount can shed a lot of light on it. Jesus made it clear enough that one can keep the letter of the law blamelessly while still falling far short of the sinless life. He said, for example, "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in

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danger of the judgment” (Matthew 15:21). Most of us have little difficulty in keeping that law. The problem is that Jesus went on to explain that was not all there was to it.

So what is the answer for the person who wants the benefits of living the sinless life? Why is the law of God so complicated? Because the law describes life and life is very complicated. But the doctrine of the impossibility of keeping the law of God dissuades many people from even doing their best. And it cuts them off from the benefits of the sinless life.

You will find no better guide to life than the Bible. And you will find no better discipline to introduce into your life than regular and systematic study of the Bible. I addressed the problem this letter raises in a recent sermon titled, “The Sinless Life.” If you would like to receive a *free* cassette tape of this message, with no obligation, just check the box on the enclosed card and send it back to us. The tape is free, but we always appreciate any help you feel able to give.

May God lead you forward,

**Ronald L. Dart**

## What’s Working for CEM?

Without question, what works best for CEM is the *Born to Win* radio program. Since its inception, we have added well over 10,000 people to our mailing list from the program. What’s especially encouraging is how positive these people are. One of the most interesting aspects of the program is that we have just been running the “Christian Holidays” series again on daily radio. Much to my surprise, we are getting a great response to the series again. Last Thursday when the program dealing with Passover aired, we got 44 calls within the first 12 hours after the program. Last week, we got 169 requests for one program or another. Our best estimates are that our listening audience ranges between 80,000 and 100,000 people for each program.

Closely related to this is the success we’ve had with the Feast of Tabernacles—something that has exceeded my fondest visions for the Feast. Last year, while walking out to my car with another member, he turned to me and said, “You know, this is really turning out to be the *Cadillac* of festival sites.” From the time the Okaloosa County Community College became our venue, everything just seems to have clicked into place. We have a beautiful, state-of-the-art auditorium, plenty of classrooms for seminars and YEA classes for children and teens, a beautiful environment with plenty of parking and everything else that could be physically desired to go with the Feast. And above all that we have a really fine spiritual program that can send a person home from the Feast reinvigorated and prepared for the work of God.

One of the best things we have done is the creation of the Festival Association, an organization of volunteers that is learning how to carry out all the functions of the Festival including planning and implementation. It enables all the people who come to the Feast

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## Calendar Of Events

### **May 19<sup>th</sup> - Terrell, Texas Pentecost Services**

Ronald L. Dart will be conducting services for the Feast of Pentecost, Sunday, May 19th, in Terrell, Texas. The meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the United Methodist Church, 503 W. College. Services begin at 2:00 pm, followed by a potluck meal. For more information call Ralph Collins at (817) 246-1874 or Faye Brown at 1-888-BIBLE-44.

### **June 15<sup>th</sup> - Roanoke, Virginia Meet the Teacher**

Ronald L. Dart will host a Meet the Teacher session on Saturday, June 15th, in Roanoke at the Conference Theater in the Wyndham Hotel, 2801 Hershberger Road. The meeting will begin at 2:00 pm. Contact Gregg Freeman at (540) 483-7285 or e-mail [gmf@kimbanet.com](mailto:gmf@kimbanet.com) for more information.

# Youth Day

## An aide in building the community church

*Church growth doesn't just automatically happen. There must be a plan with programs in place to make families want to attend your church. Ask yourself "Why would a family with children want to attend our church rather than another church in our community?" Then take a quick inventory of your church. Does your church offer Youth Day, effective Sabbath School classes, Vacation Bible School, retreats, lock-ins, and youth speech clubs? How are the kids in your congregation being challenged? Do they feel that the programs your church offers are relevant to them? Providing exciting programs to capture the minds and hearts of youth will keep kids coming back. It will also begin to bring their parents with them. What kind of investment is your congregation making in your youth? They are the church today and the church of the future. The following article was written by Sarah Seaman, a member of YEA's outstanding teaching staff at the Niceville Feast site. The Tulsa Church of God benefits from her dedication and passion to bring young people to know and love God. This article is intended to inspire other churches to have such programs as Youth Day for their kids.*

Excitement filled the air as families packed the Tulsa Church of God on January 26,

2002. It was Youth Day! This was a day that every kid had been anxiously waiting to arrive. It was a special day for kids, parents and everyone attending.

The idea of having Youth Day came about following the Feast of Tabernacles. Most sites feature a charming and inspiring Youth Day. Special music, youth choirs, testimonies, a sermonette given by a young person and a biblical play put on by the kids have been well received in Niceville over the years. Some have said that it is not only the best day of the Feast, but the best day ever at any Feast.

One of the Tulsa Sabbath School teachers thought her church should feature its own youth in a special service and began preparing the way. The younger classes were directed as a group by a few of their teachers. Teens were approached individually and asked to fill certain roles such as usher, pianist, reader, and song leader. Approaching the teenagers directly and proposing certain

duties to them, it was felt, would insure greater interest and participation than issuing a general request for volunteers.

Several children played music and sang. The children's choir sang rousing renditions of *God's Zoo* and *In My Father's House*. Two younger sisters treated those in attendance to hymns played on the recorder and on the clarinet. One nine-year old violinist opened services with the national anthem. The congregation was treated to *Jesus Loves Me* and a duet, *Musette*, by two violin-playing cousins.

Some of the wee instrumentalists introduced their pieces with well-read and relevant Bible verses and several young boys read Scriptures.

Tulsa Church of God minister Barnabas Grayson had the enviable assignment of Youth Day sermon. Mr. Grayson touched, entertained, and enlightened both the young and the young at heart with his 'list of things kids can do for their parents.' One young adult spoke about 'getting a life' through Christ as the topic in a sermonette.

A very successful Youth Day was topped off by the kids serving snacks to their parents and grandparents in the fellowship hall. What a joy to see kids honor God! The Tulsa Church is looking forward to another Youth Day service in the near future.



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to participate in creating a Feast of Tabernacles that honors God and elevates His people.

Another thing that is working for CEM is YEA. At the Feast and through the year, we are developing a youth program that is unique to the churches in our tradition. One of the very best things at the Feast is Youth Day coupled with the YEA classes that go on every day for young people and teens from age 3 all the way to 19. It's a truly inspiring and effective program for teaching the children to love God first but also to love the Feast of Tabernacles. YEA is a very important part of what's working for CEM. Out of a projected 952 lessons, Allie and the YEA team have now got in print or in planning about 45 % of that total. We also run a summer camp in Oklahoma that can be a life changing experience for the teens who go there.

If I were to list our greatest need at CEM these days, I would probably, at long last, have to admit it is money. For a long time it wasn't. We were expanding very rapidly and building our team. I'm not sure that we could have handled any more growth if it had come our way in the earliest years of CEM. But we now have a good team in place and we can handle quite a bit of growth without having to increase very much the infrastructure of CEM. We have the right people and the right equipment, at the right time to do the job. Now it's just a question of finding more outlets for our radio program, our youth program, and for inviting the whole world to keep the Feast with us.

## Add Excitement to Your Feast

For those interested in playing in a golf scramble at the Feast this year, we need to hear from you soon. It will be hosted by the Indian Bayou Country Club in Destin on September 26, at 2 p.m. For you to participate, please send \$65 per person to Wade Hamil no later than September 6<sup>th</sup>. Since the number of players are limited to 40, you will want to get your fee in early. Contact Wade at 1-334-872-8756 or [s.hamil@att.net](mailto:s.hamil@att.net).

If we receive sufficient interest, a cruise will be set up. Please let Carl Dillenback know if you prefer a glass bottom boat cruise or a wind jammer. It's important that you contact him in a timely

manner if you are interested. His contact information is: Carl R.Dillenback, P.O. Box 337, East Hartland, CT, 06027 or e-mail him at [dutchman3@aol.com](mailto:dutchman3@aol.com).



**Tune in for the latest weekly broadcast.**

**April 13 - April 19**  
*Christian Origins 50*

**April 20 - April 26**  
*Christian Origins 51*

**April 27 - May 3**  
*Special on Islam*

**May 4 - May 10**  
*Christian Origins 52*

**May 11 - May 17**  
*A Mother to Remember*

## Radio Update

**Please note the following new station:**

**Marengo, IN**  
WBRO 89.9 FM  
Sundays at 8:00 am

## *Christian Educational Ministries*



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