

Believing the Lie

By Ronald L. Dart

Would you buy a used car from a salesman who had lied to you on a previous deal? If I were buying a used car from a private party, I wouldn't take his word for anything. The car would have to be inspected by a reliable shop, and I would go over it with a fine-toothed comb. But if you are buying from a reputable dealer, you tend to be more trusting. When I bought my wife's car, it was from a dealer that had been in the community for a generation and had a solid reputation. All of their "previously owned cars" were certified and came with bumper-to-bumper warranties. They had always made good.

So I went to another dealer who also sold certified used cars. I found a car I liked very much and it was priced right. The salesman gave me the pitch that the car was certified, it had been inspected by their shop, and everything was in great condition. So, I bought it. It turned out to have a broken engine mount, tires that would not pass the Texas safety inspection, and they had to jump start the battery to deliver the car. Why didn't I notice the tires? They had been worn

down on the outside, and reversed so the wear wouldn't show.

I concluded that certification, for that dealership, meant little more than the tires could be inflated, it looked good, and the engine could be started. I think they bought the car at auction, washed it, and put it on the lot. It was certified as washed.

Now, would it be wise for me to buy a car from that salesman again? No way. Not only that, but I wouldn't do business with that dealership again. I'll bet you wouldn't either. I think we could agree that it is not wise to buy a used car from a known liar.

Now why do I raise this subject? It seems to me that there are people who would never trust

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a used car salesman who was a known liar, but they will vote for a politician who has lied to them more than once. You might say that he broke a promise, but he must have had a good reason for it. What is the difference between a broken promise and a lie? None really. If there is a distinction, perhaps it lies in the intent of the person making the promise.

Here is the difference. If you made a promise with good

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Joining Together. . .

In these tough times, increasingly more people are without jobs and this means many are struggling to pay their mortgage or rent, to keep food on the table, and to take care of their families. This recession is hitting CEM and many of you. We at CEM have had some heartrending letters. Join us in praying that God will guide those without jobs to be at the right place at the right time and that He will grant them grace and favor in the eyes of interviewers. Support our dear brethren in prayer, and as God provides, help us through these hard times as we provide spiritual help along the way.

The Prayer Lady

By Lenny Cacchio

I was on the hospital gurney, buck naked except for one of those flimsy hospital gowns. As a nurse was preparing me for my procedures, an elderly woman, bent from age, peeked in the doorway. "I'm the Prayer Lady," she announced. "I'm here to pray for you."

I'm all in favor of prayer, but must confess to being a little startled and very surprised. Here I was, surrounded by some of the best medical personnel and equipment science and technology can provide, and an elderly retired lady was allowed to roam the halls and interrupt whatever the science

and equipment were doing in order to pray.

I said, "Let's do it," and, taking my hand, she prayed a gentle, short prayer that reflected all of my anxieties. Moved by her words, I could feel tears in my eyes, not just out of gratitude, but more because I needed a reminder. In this jaded world, I forget there are still caring people who dedicate their lives to living out the mandates they see in Scripture, and are willing to sacrifice in order to do so. These are the real heroes of whom we rarely hear, and they are among us in greater numbers than we might think. Their presence leavens the

world with the light of God. Where would we be without them?

As she left the room joking and chirping, I thought of Matthew 25. "Come you blessed of my Father and inherit the Kingdom. I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink . . . I was sick and you visited me."

Maybe I have a glimpse now of how Jesus must have felt when he saw the elderly widow drop her two coins in the Temple treasury. She had little to give, but she gave what she had and, because she gave what she had, she out-gave the wealthy.



**COMING
SOON**

Many of you have asked for a catalog of the *Born to Win* programs—albums and CDs—that CEM offers. Almost since the inception of the Youth Educational Adventures (YEA) program, we've published updated catalogs of our curriculum lesson books. This full-color catalog has grown to include music and books for children that are used in the YEA classes, the growing number of books Ronald L. Dart has authored and co-authored, and adult Bible study course books. We're past due in offering a printed catalog with the vital *Born to Win* albums and MP3s, and the most timely *Born to Win* CDs of more than 800 programs that Mr. Dart has made. Many of you would rather go to our website to order materials, but if you would prefer to have an up-to-date catalog to browse at your leisure and make your selections, please check the enclosed card or call 1-888-BIBLE-44 and request your comprehensive full-color catalog.

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intentions and then couldn't keep it, you would step up, admit that you are breaking it, apologize, and explain. In the absence of this, you have every right to assume the politician is a liar. And yet, people vote for liars all the time and rarely give it a second thought. Why do they do that?

It is hard to say. In part, we can blame party politics. We identify with a political party, and the other party is the enemy. So, we tend to believe our own politicians and shout "Liar!" at the other party, which, indeed, they may be. But if we aren't prepared to recognize the liars in our own party, we may be as corrupt as the politicians we despise. What shocks me a little (but only a little) is that this phenomenon is present in the news media to the same extent as it is present in us.

But that is only part of the story. Why do we get played for suckers by professional liars? Because they tell us what we want to hear. What I am describing is a colossal lack of wisdom, what we sometimes call common sense, but what is increasingly "uncommon sense."

It came to mind recently when I was reading the introduction to the Book of Proverbs in the Bible. Solomon starts as a good writer should. He states his purpose, the reason for the book. In simple lines, he lays out ten things that form the purpose of the book. They include attaining wisdom and personal discipline, understanding words of insight, acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, and in

general developing good sense and character. Then he summarizes: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline" (Proverbs 1:7 NIV). I am beginning to suspect that when some members of the political class look at us, they have concluded we are all a pack of fools, a mindless mob. And perhaps that is not without reason. That first chapter goes on to speak of a certain class of crooks. Their spiel to the unwary is: "Come along with us; let's lie in wait for someone's blood, let's waylay some harmless soul; let's swallow them alive, like the grave, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; we will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses with plunder; throw in your lot with us, and we will share a common purse" (Proverbs 1:11-14 NIV).

It reads like a band of outlaws, but the principle is all too common and is far reaching in application. "Let's take advantage of some harmless soul, or class of fools." The communists claimed to have found a new idea. From each according to his ability to each according to his needs. But if you notice, some people's needs far exceed those of others. The concept was expressed in *Animal Farm*, by George Orwell. The ruling class on that farm were the pigs. Their mantra was, "All pigs are equal." But when some pigs got more than others, it was noted that while all pigs are equal, some pigs are "more equal than others."

"Throw in your lot with us and we will share a common purse." It sounds like Robin Hood, doesn't

it? It is also the motto of some in the political class. But we soon learn that some pigs are more equal than others, and they get fat in the process. Politicians who promise to take wealth from people who have earned it and give it to people who have not, are exactly like this gang of bandits. They invite you to throw in your lot with them. And, once you do, you start believing the lie.

It has been this way ever since we allowed men more power than it was right for them to have. Solomon went on with a classic example of personification: turning wisdom into a person, in this case, a woman. What should we take from Solomon? To me, it means I am utterly without excuse for not acting on the wisdom that is right there for me, all the time. Wisdom is not hidden away in the dark. She is in the high street, and on the courthouse steps.

If we are going to be stupid, it is because we love being stupid and silly. It isn't because wisdom is hard to find. In fact, she rises up and slaps us in the face all too often. Why do we then still make stupid mistakes? We just don't want to know. The fear of the Lord, said Solomon, is a choice we can make. It isn't forced upon us. We can reject it if that is the road we want to walk. "For the turning away of the simple shall slay them," said Solomon, "and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them" (Proverbs 1:32).

We seem to be living examples of this right now. We have witnessed the prosperity of fools, and we have seen the fools destroyed. And we probably aren't

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finished yet. I have to confess that I am puzzled by what is going on right now, but I am not paralyzed with fear. The reason is what Solomon says at this point in his dissertation: "But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil" (v. 33).

How does that work? It isn't because we think the evil cannot touch us, because we know all too well it can. Partly, I think it is because we don't rely on money to take care of us. We have a higher power who can create something worthwhile out of a disaster.

So, what is it in us that allows the charlatan, the lying salesman, the thieving politician to take advantage of us? They tell us what we want to hear. We won't admit it, but sometimes we just want to believe the lie.

There is much more to say on this theme, and I say it in a program titled, *Believing the Lie*. You can have a *FREE* advance CD of the program just by checking the box on the enclosed card and sending it back to us. The information contained in that program can make all the difference in the months ahead.

Yes, that CD really is free, but we could really use your help. The economy is affecting us, just like everyone else. God provides, and we try to be faithful with what he gives us. But, the same as you, we can only go so far before we run out of gas. Your help will be greatly appreciated and faithfully applied.

How Your Support is Helping

"I found your Born to Win program on 670 KLT in Denver a year ago. It comes on at 5:00 and 12:30. I start almost every morning with your program and sometimes can catch it over my lunch hour. I appreciate your program and have learned so much. It's the perfect way to start my day. Thank you."

"I listen to Born to Win on WLNO 1060AM in New Orleans La at 12:30pm. At times I miss the broadcast, because of work. It is a blessing that I can receive your radio through the internet. I love your Radio Archives I can listen when I have time. Also I would like to thank Min. Ronald Dart for the word of God I receive daily it helps me with my Bible study. I do not like writing Email, but I just had to send this to say may God Bless and keep your ministries and many thanks" (PL).

"Mr. Dart, I just had to tell you how much I enjoy your 'Born to Win' programs. Your sermons are so compelling! It seems like each sermon was written just for me. I listen to them on KXEG and KXXT both in the Phoenix area. Often while pondering on something you just said, I would miss your next thought so I listen twice. A question: How do I get a copy of your publication on the subject of whether one should submit to the government?" (TEC).

Christian Educational Ministries

Statement of Cash Flows For the Three Months Ended October 31, 2009

Receipts:	
Contributions	\$338191
CEM Bookstore	32452
Other Income	2172
	<u>\$ 372815</u>

Expenses:	
A/V Supplies	\$ 6688
Occupancy	7530
Office & Adm. Expenses	6076
Mailing Expenses	7672
Postage	18353
Printing	11142
Radio Expenses	198157
Telephone & Utilities	4935
Editorial Services	2296
CEM Bookstore	4917
Employee Benefits	17151
Wages & Payroll Taxes	86440

Total Operating Expenses 371357

Increase in Fund Balance \$ 1458

Feast of Tabernacles Statement of Operations 2009

Total Offering	\$57128
Total Expenses	39763
Carryover to 2010	\$ 17365

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