

From Chris' Heart

I find this time of year very interesting. There is so much going on. Some things are coming to an end, and others are just beginning all brand new.

There are graduations and award assemblies; there are showers and weddings, and baseball games and gardens to plant. I just love it!

The Harris's are right in the middle of it. The other day Amy, our daughter called and said Carder was

because I think he should get out a little more. However, he seems to be so content. I know God and he are having a good time.

My garden and yard are taking up much of my time right now. It is so much work and yet an absolute blessing to me. If you remember last year at this time it was a total mess under construction. It is coming along now, and as I tell my grandkids, "MeMe's flowers are waking up." I wish you all could see it.

I spent a couple of days and nights at a friend's lake house on Lake Eufaula a few weeks ago. There were nine of us, all women, and what a blessing that was. We didn't do a lot,

out in the driveway teaching himself how to ride a bike. No training wheels, just falling down and getting up again. Two days later he called to say he had done it. What a deal!

Amy and Steph and I had our annual garage sale. Lots of work, but always nice to clean out a few closets. Was a little tough to see Amy's baby bed go, however thankful to see it go to a precious friend for her new grandchild.

I continue to help out at Grace Church three mornings a week. It is exciting

nothing was planned, and we just ate, visited, prayed, ate, walked, watched movies, slept, fished and ate again. It was so great to see God show up in our fellowship and fun time. He is so awesome.

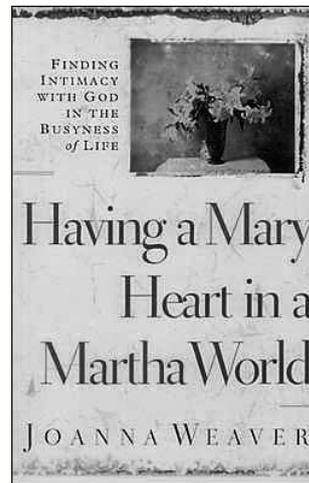
Nick and I have gotten into bird watching lately. For Mothers Day, the kids gave me a new bird feeder. We have gotten more joy from just waiting and watching for our new bird friends. HA!

As you can see, there is a lot going on and yet not a lot going on. It seems to be a quiet time for us right now. We continue to pray for you all, and pray you will be praying for us also.

around there. We are busy making plans for one of the greatest Vacation Bible Schools ever to come in August. God is moving at Grace Church as we continue our Quest for a dwelling place.

My tap class has come to an end for the summer. I will miss the exercise and the company, but will look forward to getting back at it in September.

Nick has been busy doing what he does best, studying and writing in his study. I make fun of him sometimes,



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THE ROAR

THE VOICE OF THE LION OF JUDAH...
THE ROAR OF RELATIONAL GRACE

June 1, 2006 - Volume 28

Kick-Off Meeting for ACTC Held

By Nick Harris

By the time you receive this edition of the Roar, we will have had our first organizational meeting with the goal of launching the Ariel Christian Training Center (ACTC) or the Academy. That has to be decided.

We already have a small group of committed persons who share our dream of reaching the world for Christ by training people in the fundamentals of the Christian faith, and by sending out these trainees to fulfill the Great Commission, "making disciples of all nations."

My passion is especially geared toward the international students at OU, since many of them will be returning to their nations as national leaders. Properly trained and equipped, these men and women can help win their nations to Christ.

However, a part of my vision is to train a new generation of men and women to fill the pulpits of our local churches around the country. I want to teach the principles of the word of God as well as teaching the "how to's" of preaching and teaching.

Our first step is the implementation of the Ariel Chapel service on Sunday mornings. In the

June 4 meeting, we will have determined such things as when we will begin, where the chapel service will be held, and what the format will be. We will report the outcome in the next edition of the Roar.

One thing is certain. We need our friends and supporters to be in prayer for us, as we give legs to this vision that God gave to me so many years ago. Be an Aaron and Hur for Chris and I.

Do you remember them? When Israel was doing battle with the Amalekites, as long as Moses held his hands in the air, Israel prevailed. But eventually the arms of Moses became weary, so Aaron and Hur came alongside Moses and his hands in the air and Israel prevailed.

Please hold up our hands in prayer

Holy Ground Stations and Times:

All programs air at 11:15 AM and 3:00 AM

KMSI---88.1 FM, OKC, Ok
KNYD---90.5 FM, Tulsa, Ok
KOZO---89.7 FM, Branson, Mo
WOKN---88.7 FM, Canton, Ok
WYCF---91.5 FM, Hampton, Va
KCNW---1380 AM, KC, Mo
Air Time - 9:45 A.M.
WLMR---1450 AM, East Tn.
Air Time - 7:00 A.M.



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Our mission statement:

"Transforming lives through the good news of relational grace."



“Giving the Double”

By Nick Harris

Isaiah 40 is a transition chapter in the book of Isaiah. Chapters 1-39, often called the first Isaiah, records one judgment after another. That changes as Chapter 40 begins. It is as if the judgment suddenly ends, and God says, “Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people.” The prophet, speaking in behalf of God says this: “For she has received *the double* for all her sins.”

When I first read that verse of scripture, I was confused. I could not see how anyone could be comforted, knowing that they are going to get punished twice for all their sins.

I was confused, that is, until I stumbled upon one of the most beautiful customs imaginable from Biblical times in the Near East.

That custom was this: if a person owed money that he could not pay back, basically he was bankrupt. As you can imagine, in ancient Israel there were no bankruptcy laws to protect those hopelessly in debt.

Whenever a man could not pay his bills, he had three choices. He either went to jail, he became the slave of his debtor until he could work off his debts, or he could take the third option. This option was more humane but it hurt one’s pride to do it.

A man who took this option would take a piece of goatskin and he would write down everything he owed on it, right down to the last penny. Next to the debt, he would list the names of the persons he owed.

Then he would go to the gates of the city, where everybody passed as they entered and exited that municipality, and he would hang that piece of goatskin in the opening of the gate where everyone entering or leaving the town could read it.

Friends, enemies and strangers would wag their heads and ask themselves,

“How did old so-and-so ever get himself in such a mess?”

However, there was a reason to endure such public disgrace. In ancient days, when a very wealthy person entered the gates of the city, and saw a goat skin fluttering in the breeze, he would sometimes to go over and read the information written on the skin.

If the rich man was moved with compassion for that person, he would take the goatskin down from the gate. He would then double the skin over, fold, and secure it. From that point on, no one would ever see those debts again.

On the back of the folded goat skin, he would write, “Paid in full,” and then he would sign his name. This meant that all those persons to whom the bankrupt man owed a debt would be repaid in full by the rich man.

In those days, that repayment of a debt was called, “Giving the double.” The debts that were hidden by the doubled skin were always paid in full.

That is the meaning of Isaiah’s words, “Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people; speak with tenderness and kindness to Jerusalem, for she has received *the double* for all her sins.”

In other words, it was like the sins of Israel had been written down on a goatskin and had been put out before the nations for all to see. Everything Israel had ever done against God had been written there in bold letters.

But the outcome of this state of indebtedness and disgrace was this: one day a rich man came into the city and passed through the gates. Who was this rich man? It was none other than the very person that Israel had sinned against; the one to whom Israel owed debts that he could not pay. It was the Lord Himself.

And the Lord, the one to whom all the debts are owed, took that goatskin down from the gate, and He folded it over, he doubled it, and in His own

blood He wrote, “Paid in full.”

This is what it meant to give “the double” for all her sins. “Giving the double” did not mean being punished twice, it meant having one’s debts obliterated by the one to whom the debt was owed.

That hope, the coming of the redeemer of the debts, is “the consolation of Israel.”

So, for thirty-nine chapters in the book of Isaiah, the debt is spelled out. This nation was waiting for the day when God himself would deal with their debt---their sin.

This nation waited for the day when the filth of Israel would be forever taken away, the day when God will set up his kingdom of righteousness and purity, the day when the peace of God that passes all human understanding will be poured upon His people.

Then is when God will fulfill the words of His prophets and He will “console” all those who look to Him for salvation. They will be “given the double.”

Book review: Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World.

By Joanna Weaver

This book focuses on one event in the life of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of Luke. This event was His visit to the house of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus for dinner. What Christian has not identified with the dilemma of Martha that evening? Jesus of Nazareth, the man of the hour in Eretz Israel was going to dine at her table.

She wanted everything to be right, so she cooked and scrubbed, doing all the things necessary to serve the

master, but her sister spent the evening sitting at the feet of Jesus, a fact that upset her greatly.

It is obvious that a meal had to be prepared, and someone had to accept the responsibility of doing it, and Martha did, but Johanna Weaver demonstrates in this book that the proper preparation of the meal was not the thing that was of primary importance that evening.

What was important and the core message of the book is this: when Jesus is near to us, we need to drop everything to sit at his feet and learn from him.

Sometimes the priorities in our lives need to be reordered so that worshiping and fellowshiping with our Lord come first. When that fellowship occurs, everything else in life goes better. Christ can begin to guide and direct our lives.

The author takes us through some of her own spiritual struggles, demonstrating how Satan used the distractions and discouragements that she encountered in her life to undermine her spiritually and to interfere with her relationship with God.

She gives the strategies for the setting aside of things like doubt and worry, so that we may be productive in our Christian experience.

This book is targeted for women, especially married women with children, but it truly spoke to me. It would be an excellent book for a study group of Christian women. It is beautifully written, and thought-provoking. It can be purchased on-line at Amazon books, and is now on sale for \$10.77.

Greece Trip Deposits Needed

Chris and I received a call from our tour agent last week, informing us that travel people have never had as many people traveling with them as they have this fall, and especially in the month of November. The available air seating is

rapidly filling-up.

For this reason, Mr. Nawas asked Chris and I to send all of our deposits to him immediately, which we did. We still have twelve spots available on this trip, which we have urged him to hold for us, but it will be first-come first-serve. If you plan to go with us send your reservations now.

Let me share just one destination on this trip. On the fifth day of the tour, we will have cruised through the night on the awesome Aegean Sea. We will have left the incredible island of Rhodes the evening before, and we will awaken the next morning in the Turkish port of Kusadasi in ancient Asia Minor.

We will then travel to the ancient city of Ephesus. The Roman era theater is so fabulous that it is breathtaking. It staggers the imagination. It was near here that the riot of the silversmiths occurred in the days when the Apostle Paul was teaching at the school of Tyrannus.

The Library of Celsus is still one of the most beautiful sites in the ancient world, located on the beautiful granite streets of the ancient port city, known as the gateway to Asia. Paul ministered in this city longer than he ministered in any city in the Empire.

This is only one of hundreds of biblical spots from the New Testament era that we will be visiting on this tour. As we follow Paul’s travels the Bible will come alive to you. I can promise you this. Please send your \$300 deposit today, and let’s go to Greece and Asia Minor in the sandals of the apostle Paul.

New Teaching Series Being Prepared

My latest teaching series, “The Atoning Touch, the Healing Miracles of Jesus in Mark’s Gospel,” is in the process of being packaged. It is my most comprehensive teaching series

in years.

This series not only describes the miracles Jesus orchestrated, but I investigate the spiritual principles that stand behind these awesome healings. For example, the miracle of the man borne of four: four men destroyed the roof of the house of the toughest man in Capernaum, because they believed that Christ could heal their infirmed friend. It takes real faith to believe in someone enough to destroy a man’s roof, especially a man like Simon Peter.

I point out that the houses in Capernaum were made of black basalt stone with few if any external windows. Those houses were very dark. On that day Jesus had gathered about Him a group of religious leaders, Scribes and Pharisees. The spiritual darkness must have been as great as the physical darkness.

The first thing that happened when the roof came off of the house was this: light flooded into the room. The roofs in those days were made of wooden poles laced together with leather straps, covered with dirt, gravel, and manure. When the roof came off that room the people below were not only flooded with light, but some dirt, gravel and manure came in as well.

That often happens when light comes into our spiritual darkness. It is often accompanied by some dirt, some gravel, and a whole lot of manure, but I had rather have a light and some manure, than no light at all. New revelation often brings some theological manure, but thank God for new light.

This CD series will be available in about two months. Be looking for “The Atoning Touch.”