

From Chris' Heart

As most of you know by now, Ariel Chapel had its first run through service this last week, and what a time we had. From the very beginning of this God inspired endeavor, I have attempted to be quiet and listen for that still small voice of assurance and peace that comes only from Him.

At times, there have been very different emotions. I recognize them as being just that... emotions. There has been excitement at the new adventure that God has laid before us

and at other times there has been fear. Not faithless fear, just the questions of how, when, where, etc. There has been a little sadness too. I have become very content and quite happy sitting in a loving; scripturally sound church every Sunday with my mother and two of our children and five of our grandchildren. It makes me a little sad that I won't share that very special time with them.

However, not too long ago, I remember hearing a young preacher say that when God wants to do something mighty and leads us to

join Him in it, it looks to us, like we have to give up something or loose something in order to see the blessing.

So at times when my emotions take hold, I am thankful for the peace I have in Him and the faith He has given me to know, this is God.

Now after saying all of that, I do have to tell you that last Saturday night I was picking up after a wonderful birthday party here at the house for both my mother and brother. All the kids and their kids had gone and I couldn't find Nick. I soon found him in the garage.

I guess Nick's momma's words were correct when just before she passed away, she looked at him and said, "Son, God is not finished with you yet."

He had backed the Explorer up and was busily packing it. I just had to stop and take it all in. Here it was 9:30 at night, and this 65 year old "RETIRED" preacher was loading speakers, microphone cables, and boxes of stuff, a sound board, his new pulpit along with his preaching Bible. What a precious site!

As I watched Nick it reminded me of the scripture written by Paul in Philippians 3:13. "Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet: but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead I press on toward the goal for the prize of the high calling."



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THE ROAR OF RELATIONAL GRACE

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Ariel Chapel Kick-off Rousing Success

By Nick Harris

Our first Ariel Chapel service, our walk-through event on August 13, was a real blessed event. What made it so great is that the presence of the Lord was there. Jason Moore, Curtis Foote, and I had all gone to the Guitar Center at various times picking-up the components of our sound system. There were miles of wires, and plug-in boxes, and amps, and stands and lamps and speakers and LCD's and on and on the list goes.

When we got inside the theater at 8:00 AM, I was convinced that there was no way on earth we could have everything assembled by 10:00. But by 9:30, the band was practicing and everything was working thanks to Curtis. Fred had the laptop and LCD flashing words, and everything worked like a well-oiled machine. We had thirty-nine adults and five children in attendance, not bad for a walk-through.

Our first official service was on Sunday morning, August 20. I began my new series entitled, "Shaping a Man/Woman God Can Use." I am using the life of Moses to demonstrate how God transformed this man from a cold-blooded killer into a person He could use mightily. Brian Bishop met me at the door Sunday, already encouraging me in the Lord.

We were thrilled to have a total of seventy people, including children. Once again the music was sensational, thanks to Jason and Treena Moore, Scott and Crystal Davis, and Jim Preble. I am also beginning to remember how to lead a worship service, even though I am a little rusty, but I have not forgotten how to teach.

Set-up and break-down went a little more quickly thanks to Curtis Foote and Fred Southern. It takes three or four of us to get everything out of the storeroom in the theater and all the while Curtis is plugging wires into things. How these "techy" people know so much is a mystery to me.

Please, continue to pray for this endeavor. We believe God is in it, but nothing is going to happen until we ask. The Bible promises that when two or more of us agree in prayer, God acts, so let's agree that Ariel Chapel will be everything God wants it to be.

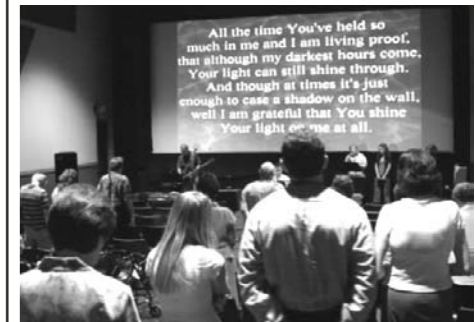
Holy Ground Stations and Times:

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.



This Months Contents

- Ariel Chapel- Page 1
- Featured Teaching- Page 2
- Book Review- Page 3
- Pray for Israel- Page 3
- Danger Looms- Page 3
- From Chris' Heart- Page 4

Our mission statement:

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

The Night Vision of Abraham

By Nick Harris

In Genesis 15:7, we read the following statement:

"I am the Lord who brought them out of Ur of the Chaldees to give you this land (Canaan) to inherit it."

Abram's response to this promise, at first glance, appears to be one of genuine unbelief. In all actuality, he asks God for a sign, a faithless thing to do, according to Jesus. He says:

"Lord God, how shall I know that I shall inherit this land?"

The proper answer, of course is this: "God said so." But that is not what Abram says. He asks for a sign. Does such a request, not indicate the presence of unbelief? The answer is, "no." Even though this request may appear to be unbelief on the surface, it is not.

The context of this request establishes that Abram had believed upon the words of God. So what about his request for a sign? Abram's request relates to the Hebrew concept of covenant, not an expression of unbelief.

God's covenants are always agreements established primarily in the hearts of men. His covenant promises must always be believed to be effective.

These promises are appropriated through faith. But they are usually accompanied by outward and visible signs. Noah was given a rainbow in the clouds as a covenant sign. Moses was given stone tablets as a sign. Jesus offered wine and unleavened bread as the visible sign of the covenant He would establish. These were all outward signs of God's inward workings.

So Abram's question to God concerned what outward and visible sign God would provide to set this agreement in concrete, and God responded. He instructed to engage in a ritual act, to prepare for what would be the sign of the covenant the two of them would make---the sign of the circumcision of his fleshly organ, which would serve to keep alive the promised possession of the land of Canaan forever in Abraham and his descendents.

In Genesis 15:9-10, God commands Abram:

"Take me a heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtle dove, and the young pigeon. And he took all of these and divided them in the midst and laid one piece against another: but he did not divide the birds."

The symbolism present in this command is staggering. These kosher (ritually pure) four-footed animals were each to be three years old. The number three, of course, represents the symbolic number of the triune God. The requirement of two sets of three (in halving each of the beasts) indicates to us the individual work of the second person of the Holy Godhead.

The fact that the heifer, the goat, and the ram were all offered as sin offerings in the Levitical sacrificial system demonstrates that they were types and shadows of the work of the second person of the Godhead, who became the ultimate sin offering.

The latter two sacrifices, the dove and the pigeon, both constitute common biblical symbols for the third person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit. The fact that there were two birds also indicates the work of the second person of the Godhead as He works in conjunction with the Holy Spirit.

When the beasts were gathered Abram followed God's instructions. He took each of the four-footed beasts, and cut them into equal pieces. The two halves were separated, making an aisle between them. The carcass of the heifer was then placed against the carcass of the nanny, which was placed against the carcass of the RAM.

Once again, these separate rows of beasts continued to tell the story of the redeeming work of the second person of the Godhead. Isaiah prophesied of Him:

"He was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities..."

This verse tells us that the severed flesh of the three beasts foreshadowed the torn flesh of Christ, which was also typified by the torn veil of the Temple, which was severed from top to bottom, when Jesus died.

The two birds on the other hand were not severed. They were sacrificed intact. The person they typified kept them from being dissected. They represented the Holy Spirit, and God's Spirit is a unified/unifying being.

The two birds symbolically emulated the work of the Holy Spirit in Christ, since he was the being who coupled God's peace and love together into one indivisible whole.

Once, Abram had placed the carcasses of the four-footed beasts in their proper order, carrion birds suddenly appeared.

Genesis 15:11 states:

"And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away."

Once again, the symbols are powerful and compelling. The passage reads as if these birds of prey were expected. The words, "... when the fowls came..." indicates that these birds were anticipated. Abraham knew that

they would come to steal his sacrifice.

This episode has always taught the people of God a vital lesson. Whenever a promise of God is given, a hiatus often exists between that promise and its assimilation. God had promised Abram this land, and that was final. It was an accomplished fact. But there was a very long lapse between the declaration of the promise and Israel's full possession of the land.

Meanwhile, invading forces, opposed to God and his people, would attempt to steal the promise: Amalekites, Hittites, Canaanites, Midianites, and Philistines would come like birds of prey.

These nations would have to be driven away until David could finally come and take the whole land, and thus fulfill the promise that God had made to Abram some 700 years or more, earlier.

(To be continued next month)



Pastor prepares to teach at Ariel Chapel in the Robinson Crossings Theater in Norman.

Book Review

The Last Jihad

By Joel C. Rosenberg

If you enjoy religious novels, that give you insight to actual historical places and current world events, you will love The Last Jihad by Joel C. Rosenberg. This novel is the first in a series of four written by this author.

In The Last Jihad, Jon Bennett, a Wall

Street strategist, who is also an intimate friend and former business associate of the President of the United States finds himself investing in newly discovered oil pool, the largest ever located just off the coast of Israel in the Mediterranean Sea.

Meanwhile, a multiple assassination attempt is made against the President of the United States, the Canadian Prime Minister, the Queen of England, and the Saudi Royal Family. As a result of this action, traced to Iraq and Saddam Hussein, the United States declares war on Iraq.

The President, an evangelical Christian, knows the United States will win the war, but he fails to take into account the nuclear weapons, the "W.M.D.'s" being hidden by Saddam. The President also has a plan to rebuild the Middle East when the war concludes. His plan is to use the new oil reserves to make every family in Israel and the Palestinian Territory rich, and thus bring about peace and harmony between these two groups.

The ever increasing tension in this book, which made me a nervous wreck, culminates with such excitement and intrigue that it will leave you breathless. It is also full of unexpected twists. Sean Hannity calls this book, "the breakout book of the year." And Steve Forbes comments, "What a lively tale. Rosenberg has written, ala Tom Clancy, one of the rare novels that is riveting to read because it seems too real---a tingling triumph."

This book has become so popular that it is difficult to find in bookstores. Even the author's website has back orders only for this book. It is sensational.

Danger Looms From Iran

By Nick Harris

Several months ago I read an article

that I ignored as being alarmist. It called attention to the enormous electronic weaponry investment being made by the nation of Iran. The article was written to warn the U.S. of this potential danger.

Apparently, a lot of people in our government did what I did---they wrote the article off. We should have taken it seriously as we recently discovered in the recent war between Israel and Hizballah. There Iran revealed the enormity of its achievements.

Military experts in the United States and Israel were shocked by four things:

1) *The inability of the sophisticated Israeli electronic weaponry systems to block Hizballah's command and communication network. This also included links between the Lebanese army command, and the Iranian headquarters inside Syria.*

2) *The ability of Iranian technicians to enable Hizballah to eavesdrop on Israel's military communications networks.*

3) *The ability of the Iranian electronic weapons installed in the coastal radar stations of the Lebanese army to block the Barak class anti-missile missile aboard Israeli warships.*

4) *The inability of Israeli electronic weapons systems to jam the military systems at the Iranian embassy in Beirut. An underground war room is located in that embassy. The war was directed from that room and was the hide-out of the Hizballah leader, Hassan Nasrallah.*

Many of the electronic warfare systems being used by the U.S. troops in Iraq came from Israel, and the Iranians have neutralized most of them.

The Department of Defense had better get to the bottom of this. We are in grave danger from Iran.