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BeaconOU

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“Going to the Chapel and We’re gonna get Married”

By Rick Thomas

I remember my wedding day clearly. It was a perfect June 96 garden wedding with friends and family. My fiancée was very excited and I was in love. She sang a song at the wedding about how she was my ocean and I was her shore. I spoke about the kind of love I had for her. It was beautiful. We had dated for approximately four months before we started what was to be a two-year engagement. The engagement was shortened to ten months. I had just graduated from a two-year Bible School in June of '95 and she graduated from a one-year program in May of '96. We were married less than a month after her graduation. Our plans were big and we had already started by buying a house together in November of '95. The house needed some renovation, but it was stunning once it was updated. We moved into our home after our wedding in June of '96.

I had had my doubts about getting married so soon. I was very organized in planning and I thought that two years was a good length of time for an engagement. Her family was very nice and so helpful. Her mom was too helpful, constantly giving advice. Her mom had found the house that we bought while looking for garage sales with a friend. I should've said no, but it was too good of a deal

to pass up. How many couples buy a house 7 months before they get married? We had only been together for 6 months when her mom had already found a house for us to buy. We were moving way too fast. People had always commented about what a perfect couple we made. We were more mature than they were at that age. It is amazing how much of an influence on someone comments like that can make. Knowing what I know now. I wish they would've slapped me upside my head for a reality check and said, “you two have only been dating for 6 months.”



There were certain things that bothered me, but I felt trapped by the momentum of all of the plans for the wedding. “Love covers a multitude of sin.” We went through pre-

marriage counseling with one of our pastors. He was a friend of her family and she would get upset when I would bring up real issues that bothered me during counseling. She didn't want gossip to start in the church. A couple should always be honest with one another and answer their marriage counselor honestly. The purpose of counseling is to address the issues. I remember once we had gotten into a huge argument the day before a counseling meeting. I showed up for the meeting and she wasn't there. I explained to the Pastor that I didn't think that she was going to show up and that we needed to postpone the wedding date if not call it off. She showed up, pretended like nothing was wrong, left with a smile, and yelled at me after the session about how I embarrassed her. She was an amazing actress. Why didn't I end it there? I thought that maybe I did over react. The counselor had said that it was good that we had gotten into an argument and that we would grow from that experience.

Needless to say, we did get married in June of '96. Throughout the marriage we had good times and bad times. It just seemed that I could never give her enough. I think that money and social status meant the world to her. The social status issue will have to be covered in another

■ Please see...Going to the Chapel continued p.2



Witnessing in a Closed Country

By Rose Creswick

I've always been interested in missions but I'm not particularly interested in dying before my time. Nevertheless, God has called me to proclaim his name among the nations and I will obey—though I must also count the cost. I would urge you, if God is leading, that you join Him in the adventure of a lifetime (that will take more than your lifetime and is worthy of every moment of it) to advance His kingdom to the ends of the earth. While it is day in this world, we must labor for His glory!

In November, I journeyed to the Middle East to participate in what God is doing there. Wow! I'm blown away by His sovereignty—even in that dark land of mystery and intrigue.

First of all, I must pass on a message from a long-term missionary, serving in this particular Arab republic. He wanted me to clearly and truthfully state that the Arab

people are very friendly—especially when you're dressed properly and behave modestly. Consequently, I tripped over my long-as-possible skirts, many times. Even so, my cultural awkwardness was generously overlooked and I was amazed by their ability to see past my white skin and my American citizenship. They certainly don't like George Bush (or Israel) but they don't confuse us with our government like we sometimes confuse them with the radical extremists.

With that said, I must also state that sharing the good news of Christ is illegal. The penalty for Muslim conversion to Christianity is death. American Christians, on the other hand, are put in jail but, for the most part, are protected by their citizenship.

I hope that these following anecdotes are a blessing to you. The bottom line is that God moved tremendously!

■ Please see...Article continued p.4



Matthew 5:14 “You are the light of the world, a city on a hill cannot be hidden.

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■ Continued from cover

article, perhaps titled, “The Danger of the Prosperity Message”. I really was not that concerned with those things for myself, but I worked hard to appease her need. We bought a ’95 red Mitsubishi Eclipse with a sunroof. That was a big mistake. When we separated in Jan ’98, no one understood what was



wrong. There had been no adultery or abuse. In the Christian community those are the only reasons for divorce. She used to say that I was controlling all of the time. I heard it so much that I believed it and would give in to whatever she wanted. It took me about a year after the divorce to realize that it was she that was controlling just like her mother and my mother. I, unlike her father and my father, was not easy controlled. She did not want to go to counseling together at our church or any other church, even though most of the issues that we had were spiritual. If you can’t trust your pastors to counsel you and keep information private, then go to another church. I went to speak to the married couples’ counselors, which were actually a husband and wife team. I remember they said that our issues were light and that she and I would be back together in no time. I tried to reconcile with her and even gave her time to think. I thought, why would this happen

to me, I had been so faithful. In March of ’98 my supervisor position at the Hotel that I worked at was canceled out. My world was falling apart. Later, the hotel had a service awards party for the employees. People kept asking me, “where is your wife?” In my self-pity I got drunk and a much older lady that I had danced with there was nibbling on my ear. I kissed her. Woo,

what was I thinking? I was giving up. I told her that I am still married. The lady didn’t care. She just wanted in my pants. I didn’t do anything else with that lady nor anyone else. I realized where that would’ve gone. I had to get out of there. My friend Mike drove me home that night. I cried disgusted with myself. Words cannot describe the torment and despair that I felt. Life just didn’t seem to be worth living anymore. There was so much bitterness in me. I felt forsaken by God and the one that I had vowed my life to no matter what. I still loved her and did not understand why this had happened. I cut myself off from everyone. I sat down and just started writing about how I felt. I was broken and wanted to end everything. As I cried and continued writing, the Spirit of God came on me and I knew that He was going to see me through. When Jesus said that He would never leave me nor forsake me, He meant it. After we divorced, we went two separate ways. I still loved her and it tore me apart. I

prayed constantly, but in the end I had signed the divorce papers. Even after signing the papers, I still believed that we would reconcile. I started going to school full-time and working overtime so that I would not have to be in my empty house. I would cry myself to sleep and when I would return to bed the next night the pillow would still be damp from the night before. I would pray, plea, and beg to God for a miracle.

I started going to a bible study with a group of people that were believing to be reconciled to their spouses. The question was, “When does a marriage covenant end?” I know that I had signed the divorce papers to avoid losing everything. I had already lost the one that I loved. We didn’t divorce for any major reason and it left me really confused. I let her know that if she wanted to work things out that I would be waiting for her. That was the hardest time. She found a boyfriend at her new church that taught, “divorce is just a speed bump in life”. Later,



she remarried. I honestly hope the best for her and her spouse. It has been almost five years since we divorced. I have thought about dating, but I would rather seek after God with all of my heart and wait for what He has for me. Divorce is something that I would not wish to happen to anyone. Before I was divorced, I would meet people in the church that were

divorced and I would think, “Hum, I wonder what is wrong with them?” It is sad for me to see recently divorced people trying to start a new relationship with someone else. I know their pain and loneliness. Divorce is not a speed bump but a mountain. You can go around it, only to repeat the same mistakes or you can climb it for healing. The climb is difficult and long. It takes time for healing, but God is the healer of brokenness. Often times, it seems that people have been sold on the idea that their spouse will complete them and make them whole. A relationship without God as center and without Jesus “truly” as Lord of it, will fail. God is Love and without God there is no true Love.

With the summer soon approaching and graduation coming for some students, I am sure that it has been a time of “relationship evaluation” for many dating couples. The anxiety and excitement of what the future holds might include marriage. Here is a list of

3. Be honest with one another. Sometimes our emotions can deceive us and we think that we are in love with someone, but we are only in love with the idea of being in love.
 4. If you have any doubts, examine them now and take more time if necessary, even if it means postponing the wedding.
 5. Do not get in an abusive, manipulative, or controlling relationship. If your to be spouse is like that now, they will really open up with their behavior after marriage.
 6. Live on your own for a while, without mom and dad supporting you. Lack of responsibility with finances is a major cause of marriage problems.
 7. Live with roommates. This will teach you to be more accepting of certain living habits that you may not have and it will help your communication skills in dealing with certain issues. How does your to be spouse live? Will this drive you nuts? I have seen best friends live together and never speak to each other afterwards due to bad habits that they had only behind closed doors.
 8. Talk to each other, listen, be loving, and honest. Remember, words can cut to the heart. Proverbs 15:1 “A **gentle** answer turns away wrath, but a harsh **word** stirs up anger.” Communication problems are supposedly the number one cause of failed relationships.
 9. Take your time in getting to know people. Marry your best friend.
 10. Wait at least a year after graduation to get married. People change once they step into the real world and have demands and responsibilities that they have never had before.
- I hope that by my sharing this personal experience of mine, I may prevent someone else from making a huge mistake. Above all, I wish you joy in your relationship with Jesus. May He always be your guide and comforter.

EVEN

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Studies for the Summer

Do you have a desire to grow in your relationship with Christ and knowledge of God? Here are some favorite links of mine that may help in your personal studies. I may not agree with the full content of the web-sites, but they had some awesome free resources that I think would benefit all Christians. I think that you will be amazed by the content. www.christiananswers.com and www.higherpraise.com have more resources than I could ever list and they include a lot of videos on-line.

www.icr.org , www.ou.edu/css , and www.drdino.com, include a lot of evolution and creation research.

www.livingwaters.com, includes Kirk Cameron and Ray Comfort stuff, videos, and audio links.

www.biblegateway.com, is a searchable Bible on-line with a concordance and many translations available.

www.cbn.com, is a Christian news web-site.

www.ag.org, is the assemblies of God site with a lot of current issues in society addressed.

I found this incredible offer that I think you should check out. It's a **free** 37 volume Logos Bible Software CD that this nonprofit ministry gives away (they do make you pick up the shipping). Check out the www.higherpraise.com site first, they had some of this stuff for free on-line. You can get the free CD at this ministries website: www.FreeBibleSoftware.com or by calling 866-66-BIBLE. In Christ, Rick Thomas www.ou.edu/beaconou

Info about the Witness Lee group known as "Christians on Campus" <http://www.gospelcom.net/apologetics/index/n01.html> <http://www.ugcs.caltech.edu/~dazuma/cult-info/www.ltm.org/leader.html> <http://www.contendingforthefaith.com/summary/experts/>

Letters to the Editor

The letters to the Editor is my favorite section of every newspaper that I read. We love to hear from our readers. Remember, all letters to the Editor may be reprinted in a latter edition of the Beacon unless specific request is made by the sender not to publish their letter. E-mail us at beaconou@ou.edu. www.ou.edu/beaconou. Let your opinion be heard. We are currently looking for people to help with funding, distribution, and advertising. Rick Thomas, Editor. Some people asked me about the Witness Lee, "Christians on Campus" group. I have some web-links about them to your left at the bottom.

Many people have asked me, "Why don't you write about the War?" I believe that as Christians we should be in a countinual prayer for our leaders and for all peoples of the world to know God's plan for their life. The Bible speaks about another war that is going on. We may not even realize it. It is a spiritual battle for our souls. It is not a Jihad. It is a spiritual battle. God has given us armor for this battle. *The Armor of God* is found in Ephesians chapter 6. ¹⁰"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." I know that God loves the people of the Middle East as much as He loves me. I will continue to love them no matter what.



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Beacon OU is an official student organization on the campus of OU. Our main purpose is to share the genuine love of God to the campus while providing news from a Christian perspective. Our personal relationship with Jesus compels us to share this treasure and the "Truth" with the world. Our source of funding is God. His Holy Spirit moves on His people's hearts to give financially in order to support printing.

We need funding now!!! If you would like to sponsor an issue of the BeaconOU or part of an issue, send an e-mail to beaconou@ou.edu with your intentions. If you have an upcoming event that you think we might be interested in, send us some details. If you have any questions, suggestions, letters to the editor, or opinions about any of the articles, you can contact us at beaconou@ou.edu or rick777ok@ou.edu.

We have a web-site at www.ou.edu/beaconou which includes past issues online. Praise God. We have the right to print or not to print any article submitted . President: Rick Thomas. Vice-President: Darci Montgomery. Secretary: Asia Smith. Treasurer: Ketiesha Brown. All articles and content Copyright 2003 held by individual authors or otherwise the BeaconOU.



November 13, 2002

Hello One and All,

All is quiet on the (Middle) Eastern Front! Actually things are great and I am really enjoying my time here. I've met some wonderful people. For instance, one girl walked a half hour out of her way just to show us to the mall yesterday. She took me by the hand and walked me through traffic for several miles. The city's streets simply don't have enough space and so the cars use the limited space very efficiently. It really is quite an experience.

Anyway, I wanted to let everyone know that I'm safe and happy. In many ways I'm safer here than in America. People have very high standards of behavior. Also, this is the month of Ramadan and so everyone is especially mindful of the proper way to behave . . . even to visitors.

Please remember me in your conversations with God.

November 14, 2002

Hi Everyone,

I think culture shock is starting to set in. I really miss being able to communicate well with the majority of people. This perspective is valuable though. I wouldn't trade it for anything.

The work is difficult . . . partly due to communication and partly due to culture. We met with some workers last night and prayed for the city. It was a good, productive gathering. There is so much I could say but I should be getting back out on the streets soon.

I will be participating in Eftar tomorrow night with a girl named "Sarah." That should be interesting and hopefully we'll have a chance to really talk about things that matter. One of the long-term missionaries may go with me since the guys in my group can't (due to culture and tradition and stuff). I'm learning so very much and having to TRUST in God a lot.

Well, out I go to meet some more people!! This city has millions of them . . . and now I hear the call to prayer. It is interesting to turn around in any place of

business and see people bowing down in ritual fashion—quite different from the United States. The place is dark and is greatly in need of light.

Working on borrowed strength, Rose

November 17, 2002

Hi There One and All,

The work is going well. I am meeting some great people and tomorrow I will be following up in someone's home on a previous meeting. That particular person is certainly in search of something. True Freedom, True Peace, not to mention other things . . .

I am becoming fairly familiar with the metro system and getting around is much easier. When in doubt, I can always ask and the people are certainly very helpful. They bend over backwards, walk miles out of their own ways, and pay for unneeded metro tickets just to help foreigners! If only we did the same thing in the USA!!! I am learning so much!

The land is dark but I believe that the son will someday rise over this land in an amazing way. Doors will open and captives will be set free!! It is true that this place gets in your heart . . . as I was told a few weeks before I arrived.

The most difficult part is meeting women. The guys have a much easier time because men spend more of the day outside the home than the women do. The women are quieter as well . . . not to mention my own predisposition to silence. God has prompted me to start many, many conversations though and I have really been encouraged by the great, profitable interactions that have taken place. I wouldn't trade this privilege for anything. Thanks for your prayers!!

Please continue to remember us in your prayers. Your prayers are greatly appreciated and cherished.

With so much Love,

Rose

November 18, 2002

Dear Tori,

Yesterday I got soooooo lost!! I was separated from my escort in this huge metropolis!! It was quite an adventure. I LOVED it!! Five Arab women who couldn't speak English physically took hold of me and led me all over the place. I still don't even know where I was. They put me on a metro though that was so crowded I could hardly breathe. Seriously, I thought the elbow in my ribcage would require surgical removal! A US Fire Marshall would have been issuing citations right and left. It was great!! I love



being outside "normal life"!! Then I finally was able to escape their kind, generous helpfulness and I wandered around the metro station and finally was able to communicate, barely, with a guy who spoke French. He put me on board a bus and I rode around until I finally saw a Mosque I recognized. That took a while, needless to say, but then I was within walking distance from where I've been staying. People are so nice around here and they go through so much effort to make sure that poor, lost American girls are taken care of—Amazing! I'm here to make sure that poor, lost Arabs are taken care of too. ;-)

Dear Family and Friends,

You are probably just waking up, which amuses me since I've been up for so many hours, considering the time difference and all. As my twin sister would say, "Get up you sleepy heads!" I wanted to write a few lines just as a quick update. The work is going

well. Honestly, seeing the sights yesterday was the least exciting aspect of this trip . . . although they are marvelous. Seeing people open up is far more amazing, in my eyes. Of all the places to live as a foreigner, this place would have to be near the top of my list. I am really trying to be a blessing to the long-term workers here and to meet people I can pass off to them.

Tonight, I am meeting with a girl who really longs for peace and freedom. I'm not sure if she realizes what that truly looks like yet but I trust that she will someday learn. A long-term worker is going with me and I'm excited about that because a good relationship can be established and carried on in the future. Of course I really desire an ongoing relationship with these people myself but, realistically, e-mail is a poor substitute for the time, proximity and personal interaction that these contacts need. The last week or so has come and gone like a blur. Another team-member arrived from America but had become so stressed from traveling that she was physically unable to go out for a few days. This is really her first day of health. In the meantime, I ventured out with the guys and with female long-term workers. I was also out on my own at times, which was much easier in terms of meeting people and getting around. The city is very safe and everyone (local women) tells me I have the physical characteristics of some of the paler Arabs. I suppose that could be a possibility but I certainly don't see it. Someone's been blinded in that respect!! ;-)

I'm really excited about tonight and the seeker I am meeting. She has such a strong desire. She's also VERY open to friendship and so it really is dangerously easy to speak into her life. I ask that "my words" would be left in the dust and truth would be promoted.

Nevertheless, I trust that great things will happen!!

Because it matters more than my next heartbeat, Rose

P.S.> The meeting went really well. Seeds were planted and I was able to speak some truth. Another short-termer's meeting was even more exciting (involving goats walking through the house) but I still had a great time. I wouldn't trade places but I certainly am glad she had a fun experience. Anyway, in both cases, the food we eat here is tasty and is always an adventure. The juice is dangerous. I'm pretty sure mine was mixed with Nile water yesterday but I'm fine. I don't seem to have a little buddy crawling around my inside or anything!! ☺ No worries. I'm in great Hands!! Besides that, Nile Water or not, I'm having such an awesome time investing in what is eternal.

Over the course of this amazing journey, I was blessed by God in having opportunities to really discuss TRUTH with Arab women. I was invited into their homes and trusted with painful secrets. I saw God move and work through situations in a way I wouldn't have considered possible. I met a man who became a Christian and daily risks assassination by his own family members. There were hard time as well and I was painfully sick on my return flight. Fasting from sun-up to sundown while walking a good ten or more miles each day was physically, mentally and emotionally exhausting. There were moments when all I could do was look out over the balcony and cry for those poor lost people. Nevertheless, the trip absolutely changed me and made my purpose in life crystal clear. This is the life God has called me to lead. What an awesome adventure! Will you be joining in?

EVEN



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INTERVIEW

Former Muslim Reza Safa Talks with Pat Robertson About Islam By The 700 Club

As the youngest of nine in an Iranian family, Reza Safa was taught that Islam was the way to God. He grew up as the youngest of nine in an Iranian family and was taught that Islam was the way to God. But when pastor and author Reza Safa traveled to Sweden, he read a book that told him a different story and he became a Christian. He discussed Islam with Pat Robertson on The 700 Club.

Pat Robertson: What is Islam? You have written a book called ‘Inside Islam.’ I read it last night and I was very interested. What does it mean? What is Islam?

Reza Safa: Islam is a very complex set of beliefs. But I think the best way we can describe it is that Islam is a religion of submission. It really means submission.

Robertson: Submission?

Safa: Submission to all the will of Allah. So Islam means a total submission and yieldedness.

Robertson: Let me ask you, you’re submitted and yielded to Allah. Who is Allah?

Safa: They believe it’s the God that we worship, the one God. But, of course, his character in the Koran is not the same as the Bible character of God.

Robertson: So if you’re going to submit to Allah, then the next part of it is that he’s got a representative you’ve got to submit to?

Safa: Right, which is Muhammed and all the people that are leaders of Islam.

Robertson: They submit to them?

Safa: Absolutely. The faith in Islam is based upon the fundamentals of one, the Koran, and, two, the lifestyle of Muhammed.

Robertson: The lifestyle of Muhammed?! He married about 12 women, and I’m not sure it was all that exemplary, was it?

Safa: Well, according to their laws and what they believe, Muhammed was really sinless. Muhammed is portrayed as the holiest person on



planet Earth. He is a very revered and revered person in that religion.

Robertson: There was somebody in your country who was called the ayatollah. What does that mean?

Safa: He was from the Shiite sect. He was the head of that sect and they called him ‘Ruhollah, ‘which means ‘the spirit of Allah.’

Robertson: He was the spirit of Allah?

Safa: That’s what the Iranian people believed.

Robertson: They thought he was very holy, the holiest.

Safa: Absolutely. His words were the laws of Islam and, of course, he altered the law and regulations strongly.

Robertson: I read in your book that he put in a reign of terror that was equaled to what happened in the French Revolution. Tell us about



what he did in the name of Allah.

Safa: I think what we have to understand is that within Islam, there is this spirit, we could call it jihad, which is what we are facing today with these groups from Afghanistan, Egypt and other places. To my belief the jihad is a spirit force that wants to wage war against everything that is from God, everything that is holy. It is against freedom. Again, we have to go back to the conception that Islam means submission, total submission, that it is a theocracy to the max to the will of Allah. So when you refuse that, you are counted an infidel or someone that is, if you will, an enemy of Islam. Whoever resisted Khomeini and his regime was resisting Allah. When the Iranians started the war with Iraq,

over 1 million Iranians and Iraqis died in that war for no reason.

Robertson: We’ve been listening on television to people like Peter Jennings of ABC and he had people saying that these Muslims are very peace-loving people and that there’s nothing in Islam that indicates war. Tell us what Muhammed actually taught in the Koran.

Safa: Actually, it is not the truth what they have been saying about Islam, because Islam expanded from the 7th century to really we can say the 17th century and caused nation after nation to fall. They have about one billion adherents.

Robertson: I want to read something in your book ‘Inside Islam,’ taken from Sura (chapter) 9:5 of the Koran. I’m reading this directly out of the book and this is from the Koran, according to our guest:

‘When the sacred months are passed, kill those who join other gods wherever you find them, and seize them, beleaguer them and lie in wait for them with every kind of ambush. But if they convert and observe prayer and pay the obligatory alms, then let them go their way.’

Is that a teaching of Islam?

Safa: That’s absolutely the teaching of Islam. It’s a spirit of jihad and those who yield to it, and all these fanatical fundamentalists are yielding to it, they follow those scriptures.

Robertson: How can somebody come up and say they are peace loving and don’t worry about a thing when this is a teaching? Does the average Muslim know the Koran? Is he even able to read it?

Safa: They really don’t. The majority of Muslims do not know what the Koran teaches. They have an idea and they hear mainly about what it says. Most people cannot understand the Koran, because it is in Arabic and they are told you have to understand the Koran in Arabic or you don’t understand what he’s saying. For all these nations that

are not Arab nations, like Persia, like I was, we had to learn it and study it in Arabic.

Robertson: But you don’t really speak Arabic fluently?

Safa: No, I don’t. It’s a foreign language to me. What we have to understand here, Pat, is that there are two sections to Islam. The majority of Muslims are wonderful, loving, hospitable people. We want to differentiate between them and these groups that are yielding to that spirit of jihad. Once they yield to that spirit, it’s a very vengeful, hateful, demonic, spirit of death. Islam has two major spirits that we have to watch out for. Number one is terror, fear. It creates fear and then rules in that fear. Number two is the spirit of death and war and waging war.

Robertson: Is this accepted? You say that so many of the Muslims are very peace loving, hospitable people. They tolerate these people, don’t they? Or do they? They feel they’re co-religionists, or don’t they feel that?

Safa: Within them there is that feeling that I used to have of, ‘Hey,



this is part of what we believe in and we have to fight for it.’ But I guess it is like Christians. We have Christians that we call charismatics, who believe in the Holy Ghost and praying for sick people and speaking with other tongues. But then there are millions

of Christians that haven’t yielded to that baptism and they don’t walk in it. So the difference is between those who yielded to that spirit of Islam and those who don’t believe in it.

Robertson: How extensive are those who have yielded to it? What are we up against? I know there are a billion people who subscribe to Islam and they’re growing at 50 million a year, according to your book. How many have yielded to this jihad spirit?

Safa: I can tell you we are in a very serious time, and most of the commentary I hear, they do not understand what we are coming up against because this is not a group or a sect or a certain number of people. This is a spirit that is growing, and we really need to pray. We are really coming up against something that is very serious.

Robertson: It is permeating these countries like Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, North Africa and Sudan.

Safa: Egypt is the most dangerous place that I know of. Algeria, another country, very serious people.

Robertson: What happened to you? You went to Sweden and something opened your heart.

Safa: I saw the love of Jesus.

Robertson: Is that it?

Safa: It changed me. Oh yes, the pure, solid, raw love of God.

Robertson: You never had that before?

Safa: During all these years of prayer and fasting I never experienced it.

Robertson: It was the love of Jesus that just melted you?

Safa: It did. It broke me.

Robertson: There are many Muslims who must be seeking like you are.

Safa: Absolutely, especially during this time. We need to love Muslims. We have six to eight million Muslims in America and we need to love them.

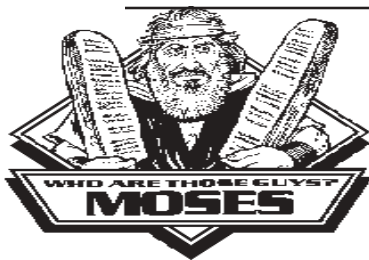
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“The Gospel according to Moses.”

Want to learn how the book of Exodus is a shadow of the Messiah and things to come? From studying the Book of Exodus, you will receive a clearer understanding of the New Testament. Understand the book of Revelations through studying Exodus and Jewish Traditions.

Jacob's Ladder Bible Study meets on Thursday nights at Christ on Campus from 7:30 to 8:30. 824 Elm Ave.

Jesus Week **2003 April** **14th-18th**

Look at the back page for upcoming events. Would you like to be involved? Contact Rick Thomas at 325-9790. If you would like to donate to the Jesus Week fund in order to continue this celebration every year, you can send donations to the Baptist Student Union with a note “for Jesus Week”.

Calvary **Chapel Bible** **Study**

Tuesday 7PM
ROTC building Rm. 21

O U C h r i s t i a n **Faculty** **and** **Staff**

Speakers series are open to the public. **Tuesday April 15th** Prof. Jeff Harwel, “A Scientist Takes a Look at the Evidence for the Resurrection”. 7:00 PM in Dale Hall **Monday April 21st** Prof. Dave Sabatini, “Environmental Ethics and the Bible” at 7PM in the Conoco Auditorium, LL2 in Bizzell Library. **LUNCH- For Faculty and Staff only** Discussion topic: “All truth is God’s truth.” **Every other Tuesday, 12:00 pm**, Alma Wilson Rm., OMU. contact mscaperlanda@ou.edu, kstephenson@ou.edu

LifeStream

Thursdays 9p.m. at Journey Church 3400 W. Main (Old Wal-mart across from Sooner Mall) **Brad Baker- College Pastor (Brad@journeyonline.tv)** JourneyChurch 217-8700

Chi Alpha XA

Has a Tuesday night, XAlive 7:30P.M. at Rome XII above Papa John's in Stubbeman Village Mall. Come check out our new office on the third floor of the Union/ Conoco Leadership Wing Praise God! He has increased our meeting space. We now have the other side of Rome XII and some major renovation has taken place. Come check it out! Greg & Susan Tiffany OU XA Campus Pastors office - OMU / Conoco Leadership Wing Outreach Center - Rome XII / Stubbeman Village Mall phone: (405) 325-1377e-address: OUXA@aol.com website: www.ou.edu/student/xa www.romeXII.com

Society of Christian **A p o l o g i s t &** **Philosophers**

Meets on Sundays at 10PM in Rm. 1128 West Walker dorms

You are invited to OU's first Messianic Passover Seder!

A Night Different from All Other Nights

Come and celebrate Jesus' resurrection this year by celebrating Passover! This is your

chance to take part in the Passover the same way the Jewish people have been since the days of their liberation from Egypt. The Feast of Passover is a feast to the Lord and a feast of freedom. We will come together to remember God's great deliverance of His chosen people, and to celebrate our great deliverance from the bondage of sin and death through Yeshua"Jesus—our Salvation and our Passover Lamb!

- Who: Everyone at OU is invited!
- When: 6:30-9:30 PM, Monday, April 14
- Where: University Christian Church, Norman
- Cost: \$10.00 (includes dinner) Register now to reserve your seat.

To register, stop by the Christ on Campus House (824 Elm, across from Dale Hall) or call 364-2703. Space is limited, so call and sign up now! “For Messiah, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us keep the

Festival...” (I Corinthians 5:7)



EVEN

ODD

Easter or Ishtar?

By Al Perez

The word Easter appears once in the King James Version of the Bible. Herod has put Peter in prison, “intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people” (Acts 12:4). Yet in the original Greek text the word is not Easter, but Pesach, that is Passover. So why was the name changed? Please read on, and remember Exodus 34:14; For you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

“Asherah” the Greek form of this word from the Septuagint is “Astarte”, who is the Babylonian goddess of the sea, sea being symbolic of people, and consort of the god El. She was the mother of several gods, including Ba’al, the Babylonian god of the sun. These deities were soon adopted by the Canaanites when they named these female deities the Ashereh or Asherim. These deities

were made of wood carved from a type of evergreen tree, or often they were set up in Canaanite homes as full trees cut down from a forest. The Asherim normally were highly acknowledged during two specific occasions. First and foremost,

they were the fertility gods of the spring equinox, when the days and nights were approximately the same in length, signifying the beginning of living things growing for the summer season. A very common practice in the Canaanite religion was performed on the first Sunday of the equinox. The families would face east to await the rising of the sun, which was the chief symbol of the sun god, Ba’al. Later on during the day, the children of the Canaanite parents would often go and hunt for eggs, which were symbolic of sex, fertility and new life. It was believed that these eggs came from rabbits, which in the pagan world were symbolic of lust, sexual prowess and reproduction. The Canaanites, however, were not the only ones who worshipped rabbits as deities. The Egyptians and the Persians (Babylon) also held rabbits in high esteem because they believed that rabbits first came from the divine Phoenix birds, who once ruled the



ancient skies until they were attacked by other gods in a power struggle. When they were struck down, they reincarnated into rabbits, but kept the ability to produce eggs like the ancient birds to show their origins.

Other stories concerning the egg rose later in the Middle Ages by the Anglo-Saxons, where they believed the origin of the Universe had the earth being hatched out of an enormous egg. Decorating eggs came about to honor their pagan gods and were often presented as gifts to other families to bring them fertility and sexual success during the coming year. And secondly, they were highly worshipped and celebrated during the winter solstice. As according to Jer. 10:1-5; Is. 40:19-20; 41:7 and 44:9-20, the pagans would go out into the forest and do one of two things. Either they chopped down a tree and carved a female deity out of it, or they would simply bring the tree into the house and decorate it with gold and silver ornaments symbolizing the sun and the moon while nailing a stand on the bottom so it would not totter or tip over.

Out of this practice came many other variations of these pagan festivals until the Roman Catholic Church adopted the Asherah worship and named it EASTER around 155 A.D. According to the CATHOLIC ENCYCLOPEDIA, Easter was named after a pagan

goddess of the Anglo-Saxons named Eostre, the goddess of the dawn. A great controversy arose between the Catholic Church and the Greek Orthodox Church in 325 A.D. on whether to celebrate Easter on Sundays or on whatever day the Jewish Passover fell upon. Unfortunately, the Greeks lost a lot of followers and the Catholics contended that keeping Easter on Sundays would stimulate the practices of both the Christian world and the pagan worshippers. Note that the word CATHOLIC means “universal” or “one world” in thought, concept and practice. Hence, since the original practice of Asherah worship we now have in our time the celebration of Easter, a counterfeit holiday to the true Christian festival of the Passover which was instituted in the Bible and completed in the New Testament when Christ died on the cross as our Passover Lamb.

“...For indeed Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed for us.”

<http://www.ldolphin.org/ishtar.html>

Who is this Jesus?

I believe when most people in the world think about who Jesus is, they think about what they know of Christians. In the Gospel of John Chapter 13 Jesus said ³⁴“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Most Christians would agree that many claim the name of Jesus and call themselves Christians, but do not have a relationship with Jesus. John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 1:1 Why would God become man to die on a cross for our sin and be risen alive on the third day? Jesus did this and more so that we would be able to have a relationship with the Holy God of the Universe, creator of all things. There are no people that God does not love, 2 Peter 3:9 God is not willing that any should perish, but all should come to repentance. We are all His creation and all have the opportunity to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. God is Holy. No matter how good of a person we may be. We are not holy. Everyone has broken at least one of the ten commandments. Take a moment to read them below. Romans 10:9 “That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” Jesus is the only way to have a relationship with God. Jesus said, John 14:6 “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” It is not about religion. It is about relationship. The BeaconOU would encourage you to read the book of Romans in the New Testament of the Bible. Search for the answers to the questions that you have. If you have any questions, or would like to receive Bible or a video about the life of Jesus Christ, feel free to send us an e-mail at rick777ok@ou.edu.

(The Ten Commandments)



1. "You shall have no other gods before Me" (God should be Number One)
2. "You shall not make yourself any graven image" (Don't bow down to anything but God)
3. "You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain" (Don't use your lips to dishonor God)
4. "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy" (Don't neglect the things of God)
5. "Honor your Father and your Mother"
6. "You shall not kill"
7. "You shall not commit adultery" (Adultery leaves a heart broken)
8. "You shall not steal"
9. "You shall not lie" (a "lying" nine)
10. "You shall not covet" (want what others have)



James 2:10 For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.

Romans 7:7 ...I had not known sin, but by the law...

Galatians 3:24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

EVEN

ODD

JESUS WEEK 2003 April 14th-18th

Monday Night: Seder- this is a Messianic Passover Dinner celebration with a clear explanation of the significance of the dinner and how it points to Jesus Christ as our Passover Lamb. 6:30- 9:30 PM at the University Christian Church, Norman. Register “**now**” for the event at Christ on Campus House or call 364-2703. Cost is \$10. Contact Rick at 325-9790 for scholarships available to needy.



THE REASON-Anonymous

My LORD my God, we are
joyous today
For a baby is born and sleeps in the
hay
Because we have sinned and sinned
again
You have sent us a Savior, our
teacher and friend

My LORD my God, His hand we
all take
He teaches the law, He walked on
the lake!
He is righteous and good, He is
healing the ill
We are shown we must always do
your will

My LORD my God, the Son fills
our needs
He blesses the bread and five
thousand He feeds
The children He loves, the blind
receive sight
He shows us His mercy, power and
might

My LORD my God, do we
deserve this much love?
For it is through Him we will see
heaven above
But how we have wandered; how
we will stray
It is on His shoulders our sins we
will lay

My LORD my God, oh what
have we done?
We have killed our Savior, we killed
your Son
We understood not what He came
here to do
Our jealousy, and pride is all that
we knew

My LORD my God, the immense
sacrifice!
For our salvation He paid this
price
And now we all mourn; now we
weep
For without our Shepard we are lost
sheep

My LORD my God, when we
went to his tomb
All that we found was a big empty
room
So let us rejoice for we can say
Our Savior and King is risen today!



Tuesday Night: “Evidence
of the Resurrection” Lecture
6:00 PM in Dale Hall
presented by Dean Jeffrey
Harwell from the Engineering
department. FREE

Wednesday Night:
Discussion Panel: “Do
Christian Faith and
Reason Conflict.” 7:00
PM in Dale Hall.
FREE



Thursday Night: Riley Armstrong -
Worship leader/Speaker with testimonies
6:00 PM-9:00 PM at the Rock Garden
by the dorms. Back up rain location
would be Chi Alpha above Papa John’s
by Adams dorms. FREE.



Friday Night: Showing the Movie “Left Behind II Tribulation Force” starts at dusk in the Walker/Adams mall area outside by dorms with a showing of “Left Behind I” following. Back up rain location would be Chi Alpha above Papa John’s by Adams dorms. FREE

Friday Night of Jesus Week!

LEFT BEHIND II

TRIBULATION FORCE

Cloud Ten PICTURES

Will be shown April 18th Friday Night of Jesus Week outside the dorms in between Walker and Adams Tower. The movie is free and will start at dusk. Left Behind I will be shown after Tribulation Force. To own a copy of Tribulation Force on VHS for a \$12 donation to Jesus Week 2003, contact 325-9790 or rick777ok@ou.edu.

Kirk CAMERON Brad JOHNSON Chelsea NOBLE Clarence GILYARD Gordon CURRIE Janaya STEPHENS

EVEN



ODD