Rabbi Speaks on When God Goes to War?

Stew Harwood

On the evening of Tuesday, February 10, the Vice President of the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership in New York, and OU’s guest speaker of the night, was greeted by an impressive crowd. Nearly filling the Union Ballroom, the Rabbi stood before a seemingly eager audience, including such distinguished listeners as Dr. Hertzke, Dr. Boyd, and Mrs. Boren. The setting was formal, the speaker was eloquent, but most significantly, as Dr. Boyd stated, Rabbi Bradley Hirschfield’s message was his life.

This evening was one of many accomplishments the University has lately made in advancing the religious studies program. Much was expected of this event, and in retrospect, an admirable amount was delivered. The topic was not easy: “When God goes to War.” Nevertheless, Hirschfield spoke well and boldly.

Hirschfield made many provoking points throughout his speech. His initial and greatest emphasis was the acknowledgment that for one hour, different people of different paradigms would unite, bring their passions together, and have the courage to listen and see others in themselves. He made the interesting point that no matter what religion we are, our histories have all been bloodied and have bloodied others in the name of religion.

He spent some time recounting his youthful religiously fervent past, some of the events that occurred, and ultimately his change in perspective. The real issue, according to the Rabbi, is when faith runs wild he coined as “spiritual narcissism.” He said the question was, “What do we, as the practitioners of religion, make religion say?”

One amazing insight of the Rabbi, of which I am in complete agreement and respect, was his clarification of when violence is appropriate. His conclusion was if you will not cry for your enemies afterwards, you don’t need to be fighting. Simply stated, if you are not able to comprehend the man across from you as an actual human being, a real person, the son of an actual mother—a mother that will see you as a murderer no matter what the circumstance—if all you see is something to kill, then you do not need to fight.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

The Degradation of Our Nation

Ricky Thomas

As a Christian, I realize that the demoralizing nature and glorification of sin in our Nation are signs of the times. Jesus prophesied that the last days would be like this and things will get worse than they are now. It really comes as no shocker to me that our Nation is becoming so morally degraded. People are more accepting of sin as their nature and even calling it good and right. While some desire to hold to America’s providential history, others would like to be their own god. The made up term of separation of Church and State has taken another change in definition to include separation of Christians and State. Judicial nominees are filibustered due to their Christian views, while liberal judges, to fulfill their own agendas, twist the wording of our Constitution to mean such things as it has never meant before. There is always clear precedence in our history of what our Constitution meant for many of these cases which is ignored completely, overruled, and wiped from the history books. I do not believe that people understand when our founding fathers spoke of religion, they were not speaking of secular humanism, but of Christianity. “Of all the dispositions and habits, which lead to political prosperity, Religion and Morality are indispensable supports...let us with caution indulge the supposition, that morality can be maintained without religion.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Night at the Noble

Garet Clark

The doors open, the lights go up, the singers begin and you find yourself in store for another night of great Christian music. On January 30th, the yearly event of Winter Jam finally came to Norman at the Lloyd Noble Arena. Winter Jam is a concert that comes to Norman every year and contains several top musicians in Christian music today. This year’s featured artists were Newsong, Audio Adrenaline, Relient K, Todd Agnew, and the new young aspiring singer, Jadyn Maria. There was an Illusionist, Brock Gill, that used his talent to communicate a very real message about Jesus.

The LNC was packed full of thousands of concertgoers or first timers which screamed to a roar as their favorite bands took the stage. The event did not only include a concert, but it was a platform to encourage people to reach out to others that are less fortunate by helping World Vision (an organization raising money for poor children across the world.) Rick Thomas said, “374 people committed themselves to following Christ, some for the first time. I prayed with two guys. One was 17 years old and desired to have a closer relationship with Christ. The other boy was only 11 years old and when I prayed with him to accept Christ, I could sense the presence of the Holy Spirit very strong. I was blessed to be used by God for such an event.”

Overall, I think things went pretty well excluding the few kids that got expelled from the concert because they were breaking the rules. In my opinion if you get kicked out of a Christian concert, I think you need to look at your life and make sure you are really right with God. Well I guess I am making a joke of what took place, but I think a thin line was crossed.

Next year, I hope the Winter Jam tour will make a stop in Norman. This year though, there will be many more Christian concerts coming to the area and many more reviews. And I will be looking forward to seeing all you at the next Night at the Noble.
Lloyd Noble Center Thur. March 11, 2004 7PM

ADORATION: THE TOUR

Order tickets and discounted group tickets at www.gregcarnesprod.com

Ticket Info: Ticket Prices are $18.00 (Gen. Adm. For groups 15+). $21.00 for all other Gen. Adm. Seating. $24.50 for VIP reserved (Limited number). Online sales through www.ticketmaster.com Ticket locations: by phone (800)687-7195, Lloyd Noble Box Office, Mardels, and Family Christian Stores.
Editor’s choice Websites

Do you have a desire to know more about God, grow in your relationship with Christ, or learn more about what Christians believe? The Bible is the primary source to turn to. Here are some favorite internet links of mine that may help in your personal studies. I may not agree with the full content of the web-sites, but they have some awesome free resources that I believe would benefit everyone. I know that you will be amazed by the content of www.christiananswers.com which has 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.biblegateway.com is a searchable Bible on-line with a concordance and many translations available.
- www.crossministry.org is a ministry that reaches out to those struggling with temptations of homosexuality.
- www.livingwaters.com includes Kirk Cameron and Ray Comfort, ministry stuff, videos, and audio links.
- www.higherpraise.com has early church writings for free on-line. You can get a free CD with church reformers writings at this ministry’s website: www.FreeBibleSoftware.com or by calling 1-866-666-BIBLE.

www.ou.edu/beaconou has all of the past editions of the BeaconOU on-line, information about future events, and web links to other campus ministries. May Truth Increase!!!

Letters to the Editor

Okay, if you haven’t been to our web-site, you need to check it out. It has a ton of resources to campus ministries and more information about us, www.ou.edu/beaconou. All of the past issues of the BeaconOU are there plus some information about future events we plan to have on campus. Send us your letters. We invite the good and the bad comments. We love to hear from our readers. Remember, all letters to the Editor may be reprinted in a latter edition of the BeaconOU unless specific request is made by the sender not to publish their letter. If you believe there are contradictions in the Bible or have questions about it, send them to us. We will try to provide some answers. Let your opinion be heard. We are currently looking for people to help with funding, writing, distribution, and advertising. We get an information table in the Union twice a week. If you would like to speak with someone personally, we are there or send your letters to beaconou@ou.edu.

Ricky Thomas, Editor.

Letter: Hi Rick,
The women of Sigma Phi Lambda (Sisters for the Lord) sorority are incredibly impressed and thankful for your work on the campus of OU. We have been praying for you and the staff. You’re sowing seeds for the kingdom! We admire so much how you have stepped out in faith, trusting that God will take care of ALL of your needs.

We would like to make a small contribution to your funds. Our prayers are always with you and we would like to help you financially as well. Please contact me about how we can make this donation. God Bless!!

Lindsey McClure

Response: That is great, Sigma Phi Lambda. We certainly appreciate your prayers and financial support. I know that it takes a lot more than what we can humanly do as students to accomplish God’s purpose. With the strength of the Holy Spirit, His grace and guidance, we continue to grow. Thank you very much.

Ricky Thomas

Letter: BeaconOU,

Well, when I first noticed the Beacon last semester, I thought you guys were some kind of political paper. The Democrat and Republican comparison on the front page was intriguing to me, especially since individuals claiming to be Christians wrote them. So, I wait in expectation for more articles like them and you guys never cover the issues in politics today that really effect Christian beliefs, “gay marriage, abortion, taking away the acknowledgement of God from any government facilities, etc.” What’s the deal? Are you scared to be martyrs? I know that you’re dealing with UOSA budget issues, but come on. You have no criticism of liberal Democrats running for president? Are you paying attention to this gay marriage thing? These guys are serious. I would write myself, but I am working and going to school with no time leftover. I don’t mean to sound so critical. I just hope that you guys will take some advice. Sincerely,

Christian

Response: Thanks for writing and voicing your opinion. I don’t know where you have been, but we do cover issues like this, we will continue to cover these issues, and we even have web links to sites that equip Christians with the knowledge to make a difference.

Beacon OU is an official student organization on the campus of OU. The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the University of Oklahoma or its student body. Our main purpose is to share the genuine love of God to the campus while providing news from or with 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, “Jehovah Jireh”. His Holy Spirit moves on His people’s hearts to give financially in order to support printing. We hope to get 15 more people who will make a dedication to give $10 per edition. There are 8 editions per school year. If this is you, 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, or opinions for the editor about any articles, you can contact us at beaconou@ou.edu.

Visit our web-site at www.ou.edu/beaconou. It includes information about our organization, upcoming plans to show spiritually educational films, and all of the past editions on-line. We will not print vulgar articles. We are an open forum to discuss how Christianity fits within our world today. Send us your articles. President: Ricky Thomas, Vice-President: Chase Parsons. Secretary: Ashley Gibson. Treasurer: James Wickett. All articles and content Copyright 2004 held by individual authors, news sources, or otherwise the BeaconOU. The printing of this edition is funded by the UOSA.
José Sandoval

I have been having a lot of fun here at the University of Oklahoma. I give thanks to God that he has allowed me to come to this wonderful university, Oklahoma, and the U.S.

It all began when I was in my freshman year at my home university in Colima, Mexico. Studying abroad was one of my goals when I started college but I was forgetting about it, since I was thinking it would be something impossible for me to do. I did not even think about it again during the next year of college. But once I met Jesus Christ as my savior, he was talking to me about this thing. Even when I was a spiritual baby in Christ, He started to work in my life in an incredible way. One of the messages I got from my Christian leaders was that the enemy will always try to take away the dreams and goals of your life so, you got to fight against that. I started praying about my goals and dreams, so God reminded me of my desire about studying abroad.

During my junior year, the desires for studying abroad were more present in my life, so much that I just walked by faith, because I knew that it would be expensive for my family and me. But I give thanks to God that He provided the money and is still doing it. I remember the steps of faith that I had to walk. Since I just wanted to study abroad and get to know another culture, I was thinking about going to France. But, it tried to match my major with those universities in France that have an exchange program agreement with my university and no one matched. So I thought, I’ll go to Canada, but I was not accepted since there were no more spots for the semester in that Canadian University that I wanted to attend. I wanted to give up about realizing my dream. But once again, God was there reminding me that my dreams don’t have to be taken away by the evil one. So I asked my study abroad advisor at my home university for advice and he told me that OU had two places for the fall semester 2003. Not very convinced about it, I applied. It was not that exciting, since I wanted to go to another place besides OU.

Two weeks after I applied I was told by email that I was accepted officially to attend OU as an exchange student. I was not that excited, since I wanted me to be there reminding me that my purpose was there for me to be. And here I am. I did not expect that things would be so great for me here; people, friends, campus, international students, everything is just like I wanted. God just knew my heart and He brought me here. I just did His will.

Before coming to OU, I was trying to find Christian fellows in order to congregate and continuing growing in God. Searching on the Internet, God led me to the CHI ALPHA place where they meet, incredible, but it was.

The first days at OU, the new culture, and the homesickness I experienced, made me feel so indifferent to my brothers and friends. Sometimes, I could not explain my feelings and prayer requests to them. I was feeling alone and not having friends or simply, not having someone to trust. My dependence on God was more strong. Sometimes I asked God: what am I doing here? What did you send me here for? I cannot understand my brothers and sisters. I just want to go back with my Christian friends that I have in Mexico, I said. But God was changing my mind and little by little I got used to my new friends. I am thankful that my Chi Alpha friends have been so nice to me and have made me feel at home by understanding me. I just don’t have words to thank God enough for the brothers and sisters that I have found. I love CHI ALPHAN’S. I’ve been growing with them as a Christian by understanding a new culture and understanding that God is the same wherever I go. Wherever I stand in the world, God will always be the same. I feel that God has a plan for my life.

This is just beginning of my new life in Christ. It’s been just a year and a half since I met Him. He is showing me the wonders of His Kingdom. The blessings, and His purpose for my life everyday is more real. I know that every Christian has a purpose in His life and God is leading me to His will. I pray that I can always be in His will and that the things of this world will not distract me from His love. To be continued.

Aaron Adair

Prayer is a very important issue that Christians talk about all the time. A Christian’s life revolves around prayer, if he or she is right with God.

God answers your prayers when you listen to him. My pastor talked about giving back to God, and God giving back to you in one of his sermons. Giving back to God helped answer a prayer that has been on my heart for sometime now. Coincidentally, it happened at church, and I sat in the service teary eyed for 20 minutes.

It says in James 5:16 “The fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much”. In my case, persistence in prayer blessed my life tremendously. Here is what some people say about what prayer means to them.

“Prayer is the most intimate way to interact with God,” said Robby Grabow, Texas Tech law student.

“It is a way God uses to change mankind. I would be frustrated with life if I didn’t have prayer,” Grabow said.

“Prayer is a relationship to me,” said Jean Conner, businesswoman, “It is my constant conversation with God that goes on all day.”

With constant prayer in her life, Conner is able to find peace in her prayer as it keeps her grounded. Conner believes comfort lets her know He is there for her.

People feel comfort in prayer to know God is there for them. It keeps people safe in their everyday life.

Public relations junior at OU, Jessica Summers said prayer brings comfort to her life.

“Prayer is my communication with God,” said Summers, “and if I didn’t have prayer, I would feel so alone without God.”

Your prayers can include more than just yourself.

“Prayer can also be an interceding for other people,” said Amanda Jackson, journalism senior.

Jackson professes when she prays for blessings for other people; the Lord returns blessings to her as well. Your prayers are in God’s presence, and that is very powerful. Imagine being in the presence of the Almighty. What more can you do than bow down at his feet?

“The Lord wants you in continuous prayer, and with this you can live in the spirit more than you do in the flesh”, said Jackson. The more you are in prayer and contact with Him, the more you learn about Him. The more you learn about Him and from Him, the more you are like Him.

Doesn’t it say in Genesis, “God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him.”

Why has the world turned into such a difficult place to live? Man has turned his back on God, and he has ceased to pray. Man has made a life in the flesh with all his worldly items that take his attention.

Man needs to turn back to God and PRAY to straighten out this crazy world we live in today.
An Athlete in Action for Christ

Aaron Adair

Many athletes like to make progress on the field. Every so often, one can find an athlete who makes even more progress off the field.

OU baseball player, Scott Rooker, has been an outfielder at OU for two years now, and he also helps lead the team bible study. Rooker spent the past summer playing baseball in New York with the Campus Crusade for Christ sports group titled Athletes in Action. He had to raise four thousand dollars for his expenses and his team.

“This summer was about my two favorite things,” Rooker said, “It was about honoring God and playing baseball.”

Athletes in Action attempts to expose every person in the world to the gospel, and the group trains their players to minister to others.

Rooker said he expected to be the bad kid coming into the summer, but his summer was quite different.

“It was the greatest summer of my life,” Rooker said. Baseball was the reason Rooker went to New York this past summer, but Rooker grew much more spiritually than he did in baseball.

“I learned many new perspectives on the Bible,” Rooker said.
The team had daily Bible studies where different issues were talked about. Attention, affection and emotion are a few virtues Rooker learned about deeply on a spiritual level this past summer. Rooker’s coach, Tim Hodges, also led the Bible studies. Hodges has been a minister and a coach for over 20 years. During the season, the players traveled all over the New York area to play, so many of the teaching and learning sessions came during traveling. Hodges wanted to talk about the player’s interest instead of his own so he had question and answer time instead of lecture.

“I also spent extra time with Scott and a few of the other players, because they wanted extra time,” Hodges said.

Hodges said he taught the players to let baseball be an extension of who they are in Christ rather than their identity on earth. He also gave the players a new attitude to grow in the fundamentals daily...as a man, ballplayer, and a Christian. Hodges’ team objective was “to keep your faith in the right place...Christ!”

His actions are much different from most division one-baseball programs, and that is a reason why Hodges said that he doesn’t coach at a professional level.

Each AIA team had an AIA leader as a part of the team. Rooker’s AIA leader was JD Bickle.

“It was a pleasure to have Scott on our team,” Bickle said. “Concerning his growth, I think Scott grew a lot in his identity in Christ.”

Bickle said, AIA teaches that your performance is just you doing your best as a form of worship to God.

Rooker also took a big step by the end of the summer by sharing his faith with other teams when we would meet with them for post game meals. Other teams respected what he said because they knew he was a class act and a competitor.

Rooker said that he is a material person, but where he played in New York made him understand how to be content with what he had. He played in a rural town of Alfred, New York where there weren’t any material products to buy.

Rooker enjoyed his time with Athletes in Action and he plans to play with AIA again in Alaska this coming summer. This spring he will have to go through the whole process of raising money again.

After all of his experiences, Rooker leads an open team Bible study one night during the week after practice. Rooker’s actions off the field make a big difference to everyone in the program.
Weekly and Special Events

Mondays

- **OUC Christian Faculty and Staff Lunch - For Faculty and Staff only, every other Monday, 12:00 pm, Alma Wilson Rm., OMU** and prayer in the weeks between the discussion meetings. For info, contact kstephenson@ou.edu, www.ou.edu/faculty/organizations/ouchrfas/

- **ISF - International Student Friendship**
  Meets at 7:30 PM at Rome XII in Stubbeman Village Mall. For info, Wayne 413-3713. http://www.ou.edu/student/isf

Tuesdays

- **Chi Alpha XA** XAlive meets at 8:00-9:30 PM at Rome XII above Papa John’s in Stubbeman Village Mall. For info. 325-1377, OUXA@aol.com, www.romexii.com. Greg & Susan Tiffany OU XA Campus Pastors

Wednesdays

- **R.U.F.- Reformed University Fellowship** meets at 9:15 PM Dale Hall Tower Lounge, 9th floor. Teaching this semester is on Word & Deed: Jesus’ Parables & Miracles. Contact Doug, www.ouruf.org

- **Baptist Student Union**: Vespers meets at 8:00 PM for Worship Service 1001 Elm Ave. (405) 321-4474, www.soonersforchrist.org

- **Jacob’s Ladder Bible Study**: “The Gospel according to Moses,” A Messianic Bible Study in the Book of Genesis meets from 7:30-8:30 PM at 1311 Jenkins Ave., on the corner of Lindsey and Jenkins under Padthai.

- **Lifestyle**: meeds 9:00 PM at Journey Church which is the old Buy for Less building on 12th and Alameda St. Info. Brad Baker- College Pastor 217-8700. Brad@journeyonline.tv www.oulifestream.com

- **Christian Legal Society** is tentatively planning to have a discussion following a viewing of “The Passion of the Christ” on Ash Wednesday. Contact Kris at: tutor4@cox.net

- **Intelligent Design Evolution Awareness I.D.E.A. club**
  For more information contact. ideaclub@ou.edu or www.ou.edu/css

- **Doug Serven**, Campus Pastor of RUF - Reformed University Fellowship, has written a book called TwentySomeone. Read the first chapter online at Twentysomeone.org

Thursdays

- **Sooners For Christ** meets at 8:00 PM for Worship Service 1001 Elm Ave. (405) 321-4474, www.soonersforchrist.org

- **Baptist Student Union**: Vespers meets at 7:00 PM at 435 W. Boyd. For info. (405) 321-2810, www.oubsu.org.

Fridays

- **African Christian Fellowship** meets at 7:30-9:30 PM in the Henderson Tolson Cultural Center. We invite anybody to come and worship with us. Info. tititeriba@yahoo.com

- **Crazy Love** is a three week series that will help you ask some of the most important questions of your life regarding sex, love, marriage, and dating. How you handle these issues in your college years help set the tone and lay the foundation for the rest of your life. Join us as we ask the hard questions and talk honestly about these vital issues. Crazy Love Begins Thursday, February 12th at Lifestyle…Don’t miss it! Contact Brad@journeyonline.tv

- **Everyone come eat and help Sigma Phi Lambda**
  The women of Sigma Phi Lambda, Sisters for the Lord will be carhopping at Classic 50’s on Lindsey St. all day Saturday, February 28th for a sorority fundraiser. We’d love to have as many people as possible come out to support us! Thanks so much!

- **Intelligent Design Evolution Awareness I.D.E.A. club**
  For more information contact. ideaclub@ou.edu or www.ou.edu/css

- **Doug Serven**, Campus Pastor of RUF - Reformed University Fellowship, has written a book called TwentySomeone. Read the first chapter online at Twentysomeone.org
Forty days of prayer for global spiritual awakening

Day 1 Wed - February 25-
For forgiveness bringing revival Psalm 85:2-4,6 Luke 15:20-24

Day 2 Thu - February 26-
For revival bringing transformation Psalm 85:7-8 John 14:19-21

Day 3 Fri - February 27
For revival bringing salvation and glory John 11:24-25, 40

Day 4 Sat - February 28
For revival bringing righteousness and peace Psalm 85:10-13 Luke 1:76-77, 79

Week 1 Toward hope: LIFE to revive His Church
Global Focus: South and North America & the Caribbean
During the first eleven days, we’ll seek God to fulfill His promise to cleanse, revive and restore His people.

Day 5 Sun - February 29
To restore His people to fruitfulness Psalm 80:14-15, 17-18 John 15:1-2, 5

Day 6 Mon - March 1
To impart His life-giving Spirit Ezekiel 37:3, 5, 10, 14 John 5:25

Day 7 Tue - March 2
For Christ’s resurrection power Hosea 6:1-2 Revelation 1:17-18

Day 8 Wed - March 3
To purify His people Psalm 51:7, 10 Matthew 5:8

Day 9 Thu - March 4
For His people to love and obey Him Deuteronomy 30:19-20 Luke 16:13

Day 10 Fri - March 5
For God to unite His people Psalm 133:1, 3 John 17:3, 22-23

Day 11 Sat - March 6
To bring life from His people to the world Ezekiel 47: 9, 12 John 7: 37-38

Week 2 Toward hope: LIGHT to awaken the lost
Global Focus: Asia and the Pacific
This week we will pray on behalf of people not yet following Christ, that God would reveal Himself and draw them to Christ.

Day 12 Sun - March 7
For the light of the gospel to shine Isaiah 9:2 Luke 1:78-79

Day 13 Mon - March 8
For God’s love to be revealed Isaiah 30:18 Matthew 20: 32-34

Day 14 Tue - March 9
For the word of God to be understood Isaiah 119:130 Luke 24:45

Day 15 Wed - March 10
For revelation leading to repentance Job 42:5-6 John 9:36-38

Day 16 Thu - March 11
To rescue people from spiritual darkness Psalm 107:10-11, 13-14 John 3:36-38

Day 17 Fri - March 12
For God to overwhelm powers of darkness Isaiah 42:13-16 John 12:31-32, 36

Day 18 Sat - March 13
For God’s light to bring many to abundant life Psalm 36:7-9 John 8:12

Week 3 Toward hope: GLORY to God by evangelizing all peoples
Global Focus: Africa
This week we will pray that efforts to spread the gospel will be so fruitful that God will be followed and worshiped in every people.

Day 19 Sun - March 14
For Christ to restore relationships in communities Jeremiah 33:5-6, 9 Luke 19:42

Day 20 Mon - March 15
For God’s name to be honored among peoples Psalm 7:6, 9, 11 Luke 18:7-8

Day 21 Tue - March 16
To empower His people to restore cities Isaiah 61:1-4 Matthew 5:26

Day 22 Wed - March 17
For leaders to openly honor God Psalm 2:10-12 - Matthew 2:8-11

Day 23 Thu - March 18
For every people group to hear the gospel I Chronicles 16:23-24 Luke 8:39

Day 24 Fri - March 19
To bring blessing through righteousness Genesis 18:18-19 Matthew 3:15

Week 4 Toward hope: RIGHTEOUSNESS in our cities
Global Focus: The Middle East
This week we will pray that God’s reconciling power to be at work so that expressions of heaven’s peace reveal Christ and His kingdom.

Day 25 Sat - March 20
For Christ to bless His people with peace Genesis 22:18 John 8:56

Day 26 Sun - March 21
For Christ to gather all peoples in worship Psalm 102:18, 22 Mark 11:17

Day 27 Mon - March 22
For Christ’s Lordship to be welcomed by the nations Zechariah 9:9-10 Luke 8:40

Day 28 Tue - March 23
For Christ to restore children to their parents Isaiah 54:14 Mark 13:9

Day 29 Wed - March 24
For Christ to bring wisdom to leaders Isaiah 54:14 Luke 1:74-75

Day 30 Thu - March 25
To rescue people from spiritual darkness Psalm 107:10-11, 13-14 John 3:36-38

Day 31 Fri - March 26
For the visitation of God’s salvation among all peoples and nations.

Day 32 Sat - March 27
For Christ to bless His community or country, many thousands around the world will be praying the same prayers for the people and cities of their nations. You won’t be praying alone.

Day 33 Sun - March 28
For Christ to gather all peoples in worship Psalm 102:18, 22 Mark 11:17

Day 34 Mon - March 29
For Christ to turn the nations to Him John 4:23

Day 35 Tue - March 30
For Christ to restore relationships in communities Jeremiah 33:5-6, 9 Luke 19:42

Day 36 Wed - March 31
For Christ to bless His people’s enemies Proverbs 16:7 Matthew 5:44-45

Day 37 Thu - April 1
For Christ to unite His people - Ephesians 2:19 John 14:21

Day 38 Fri - April 2
For Christ to bless all peoples in worship Psalm 102:18, 22 Mark 11:17

Day 39 Wed - April 3
For Christ’s Lordship to be welcomed by the nations Zechariah 9:9-10 Luke 8:40

Day 40 Sat - April 4

Palm Sunday - Toward hope: VISITATION
Global Focus: Jerusalem
This final day we will pray for Christ to visit our communities with His presence and saving power.

Day 41 Sun - April 5
For Christ to restore relationships in communities Jeremiah 33:5-6, 9 Luke 19:42

Day 42 Mon - April 6
For Christ to bless all peoples in worship Psalm 102:18, 22 Mark 11:17

Day 43 Tue - April 7
For Christ to gather all peoples in worship Psalm 102:18, 22 Mark 11:17

Day 44 Wed - April 8
For Christ’s Lordship to be welcomed by the nations Zechariah 9:9-10 Luke 8:40

Day 45 Thu - April 9
For Christ to restore children to their parents Isaiah 54:14 Mark 13:9

Day 46 Fri - April 10
For Christ to turn the nations to Him John 4:23

Day 47 Sat - April 11
For Christ to be worshiped by every nation Revelation 10:1-11 Matthew 6:33

Day 48 Sun - April 12
For the city to experience God’s righteousness Hosea 10:12 Matthew 6:33

Day 49 Mon - April 13
For Christ to gather all peoples in worship Psalm 102:18, 22 Mark 11:17

Day 50 Tue - April 14
For Christ’s Lordship to be welcomed by the nations Zechariah 9:9-10 Luke 8:40

Day 51 Wed - April 15
For Christ to gather all peoples in worship Psalm 102:18, 22 Mark 11:17

Day 52 Thu - April 16
For Christ’s Lordship to be welcomed by the nations Zechariah 9:9-10 Luke 8:40

Day 53 Fri - April 17
For Christ to gather all peoples in worship Psalm 102:18, 22 Mark 11:17

Day 54 Sat - April 18
For Christ’s Lordship to be welcomed by the nations Zechariah 9:9-10 Luke 8:40

Day 55 Sun - April 19
For Christ to gather all peoples in worship Psalm 102:18, 22 Mark 11:17

Day 56 Mon - April 20
For Christ’s Lordship to be welcomed by the nations Zechariah 9:9-10 Luke 8:40

Day 57 Tue - April 21
For Christ to gather all peoples in worship Psalm 102:18, 22 Mark 11:17

Day 58 Wed - April 22
For Christ’s Lordship to be welcomed by the nations Zechariah 9:9-10 Luke 8:40

Day 59 Thu - April 23
For Christ to gather all peoples in worship Psalm 102:18, 22 Mark 11:17

Day 60 Fri - April 24
For Christ’s Lordship to be welcomed by the nations Zechariah 9:9-10 Luke 8:40

Day 61 Sat - April 25
For Christ’s Lordship to be welcomed by the nations Zechariah 9:9-10 Luke 8:40

Day 62 Sun - April 26
For Christ to gather all peoples in worship Psalm 102:18, 22 Mark 11:17

Day 63 Mon - April 27
For Christ’s Lordship to be welcomed by the nations Zechariah 9:9-10 Luke 8:40

Day 64 Tue - April 28
For Christ to gather all peoples in worship Psalm 102:18, 22 Mark 11:17

Day 65 Wed - April 29
For Christ’s Lordship to be welcomed by the nations Zechariah 9:9-10 Luke 8:40

Day 66 Thu - April 30
For Christ to gather all peoples in worship Psalm 102:18, 22 Mark 11:17

Day 67 Fri - May 1
For Christ’s Lordship to be welcomed by the nations Zechariah 9:9-10 Luke 8:40

Day 68 Sat - May 2
For Christ to gather all peoples in worship Psalm 102:18, 22 Mark 11:17

Day 69 Sun - May 3
For Christ’s Lordship to be welcomed by the nations Zechariah 9:9-10 Luke 8:40

Day 70 Mon - May 4
For Christ’s Lordship to be welcomed by the nations Zechariah 9:9-10 Luke 8:40
Maybe it’s not alright.

The screen comes alive; a man with a tire tool walks up behind another and starts pummeling him to death, blood flies everywhere. The beaten man falls into a heap.

An American soldier of some kind carrying a machine gun is moving through a building. He makes his way through a maze of obstacles, going from room to room. Bad guys pop out of corners and from behind things. The soldier mows them down with his weapon. He leaves bloody bodies in his wake.

Laughter booms from the studio audience; one homosexual man is sitting in another one’s lap, as a ‘straight’ guy makes a joke about them.

As the classic old rock song was fading out, which I enjoyed, the DJ talks for five minutes with his top of the hour replacement about the wild night he had with a “drunk babe” he met whom he snuck his top of the hour replacement about the wild night which I enjoyed, the DJ talks for five minutes with whom he snuck.

After the children in the classroom didn’t say the Pledge of Allegiance, and didn’t have a morning prayer, they sat down to a day of learning how man evolved from monkeys, how the universe came to be by a mysterious bang and the totally secular version of world history.

What are these descriptions of? A popular video game, a popular computer game, a prime time ‘sit com’, my local classic rock radio station, and the average public school room. This is just a small sampling of what is out there today. It’s not just on cable or restricted in any way, readily available to whomever wants to partake, including children. You say ‘so what, I knew that, it’s freedom of speech.’ Have we become completely desensitized to all of this? As long as it sells and keeps the economy afloat, is that alright? It’s amazing to step back and look at what is considered to be alright in our society now. Is this what you want for your children? Is this the best we can do? At the risk of sounding like a prude, I can’t believe how far we’ve sunk. I am not even that old, and I have to admit, it wasn’t until I had a child that these things really started to get my attention.

As far as television and radio, just in the last ten years look how far it has degraded. Not only has the quality of TV shows spiraled downward, look at what the networks now permit. Listen to what can be discussed freely on prime time radio. The FCC used to have a real function, and that was to keep profanity, as well as partial nudity, violence and very questionable subject matter off of regular network broadcasts. What is the function of the FCC now? Every year there is one or two more words added to the ‘acceptable’ list. One or two more subjects that are okay to present, a little more blood and violence than the previous year.

Video games are now rated like the rating system used for movies. A recent survey of parents across America revealed that over 70% of them paid little or no attention to the already liberal ratings when purchasing the games for their children. If you’ve never played one of these or seen one, you need to look at one. The graphics are unbelievable. I can’t imagine a parent looking at people slaughtering each other in high definition and saying “I have got to get one of these for little Johnny!”

I enjoy watching sports on television, but if my little girl is in the room, I have to keep the remote control within arms’ length because as soon as one of the many commercials come on, she’ll be exposed to 32 inches of Trinitron quality jiggling silicone in a beer ad. This will be followed by previews of the upcoming ‘sit coms’ including the latest stab at masturbation, homosexuality, pre-marital sex, infidelity, impotence, etc., etc., etc., etc.

Believe it or not, the Bible is still the standard by which Christians are to live and which we are to distinguish good from bad and reality from illusion. We don’t have to live according to what others say is alright. We don’t have to conform to the rest of society just because that’s the way it is. This is not what God wants for us. (Romans 12:2) We don’t have to buy violent video and computer games for our children. We don’t have to come home and automatically flip on the TV, allowing whatever is being broadcast to enter our home. It’s okay to home school our children or look for alternative schools, if we don’t like the curriculum, which the public schools have to conform to, or, if we care for their safety.

Yes, it is a free country and you have the right to choose what you watch, listen to or otherwise expose yourself to, but the quality choices are becoming fewer and fewer. You must constantly stay on guard as to what is easily accessed. What we are presented with is offered in a way that says, ‘go ahead, it’s alright now’.

I say, maybe it’s not alright.

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2)
Finding your Faith

Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect, that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.” —George Washington, Farewell address 1796. What the future holds for America is dark with sin, if Christians refuse to be the salt of the Earth. Jesus said that the days of His return would be like the days of Noah and the days of Sodom and Gomorrah. In the meantime, we must continue the great commission to preach the Gospel to all peoples. We must not give up on the political process or our government leaders. It is by bad politics and our own personal noninvolvement that has allowed this degradation to take place in our Country. It is by good politics and our involvement in the political process both spiritually and naturally that can “reclaim America” and “take our Nation back” for the glory of God. In this month’s IMPACT newsletter it is said that “two million fewer evangelicals turned out to vote in 2000 than in 1996, according to an estimate provided by Dr. John C. Green, director of the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at the University of Akron. (Others have put the number at four million,)” We need to pay close attention to our leaders and candidates running for office. I pray that there will be an increase in Christians falling on their knees and seeking God’s guidance according to the Scriptures in order to know His will. To be continued. http://www.coralridge.org/impact/2004_Feb_Pg6.htm

There Are No Barriers

Aaron Adair

I have survived many trials in my life by the grace of God, so my faith is instinctive. With God at my side, how can I not have faith in Him. It is very easy to have faith because of my trust in Christ. It was recently brought to my attention that everyone doesn’t think the way I do.

People tell me they admire my faith, or they don’t know how I have survived through brain cancer, radiation, problems with my father and now this stomach disease I have. I tell them it is very simple; my faith in Christ got me through all of it. With faith in Christ, you can lay your burdens at His feet, and he will carry you through the problems you are going through.

People are not as trusting as I am. In the Bible, the word faith comes up about 500 times. There are twice as many positive references than there are negative references (faithful to unfaithful), and this is in the time near Christ. It is hard for people to trust someone when so many people are unreliable, but Christ isn’t. He is the one who is always there for you.

“I will never leave you nor forsake you.” Deuteronomy 31:6.

What more does man need than these words?

author/speaker

“You Don’t Know Where I’ve Been”

Luke 1:37 “for nothing is impossible with God”

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There are no barriers from God, seek God in your life now because HE is waiting for you!

-Mark Twain 1835-1910

It is astonishing what force, purity, and wisdom it requires for a human being to keep clear of falsehoods.
I left America the other day...

Wayne Edwards

I left America the other day. I went to the airport, as you might expect, but I didn’t get on a plane. My friend and I waited, looking for a familiar face with all the others who had loved ones coming. Then suddenly there they were, my friend’s parents.

My senses were very alert, observing as I watched how they greeted first my friend and then me. Embraces, handshakes, and then bows and “thank you” several times in both Japanese and English. No matter how much you tell yourself ahead of time that that will happen, it can still occasionally catch you off guard. I had left America at that moment. No longer was my ear filled with the words of my familiar mother tongue, but now they were a hum with the flowing words of Japanese.

I got to drive the taxi, which is not something that someone normally does when arriving in another country. The rhythmic sound of Japanese continued as my friends took in the sites of the City from my backseat. “Such giant, straight roads.” “So much wide open sky.” These were somewhat new to me again too.

We got all the luggage into the hotel room and then went for lunch at Applebee’s. The food was of course familiar, but it was also new as I watched my friend’s father dig into his first Oklahoman steak. I had one myself, indulging like it was also my first time.

Conversation began, and my speaking and listening skills were put to the test. The key was understanding, and meeting each other where we were at as we tried to communicate. And communicate we did. We talked about everything, from the wonderfully strong, almost addictive taste of the chocolate dessert to the Texas Rangers’ recruiting team, the Red Hawks, in OKC. But soon it was time for my friend’s parents to sleep and adjust to the new time zone.

I returned to America...

I left America the other day, this time with another friend. He guided me as we shot south in my car, crossing the Red River and passing Fort Worth, but not going so far as to cross the Rio Grande. The trip was shorter than expected, but it always is with a good friend beside you. We had little time so we went shopping quickly, but my friend’s family arrived even before we had finished.

Greetings, these being somewhat more eligible: “¡Hola! ¿Cómo estás?” and many other expressions and questions, which my limited Spanish vocabulary does not contain. Nevertheless, smiles, handshakes, and hugs are quite well understood, and the pictures that were taken were by no means out of place. The food was pretty similar in this new country. Hamburgers, fries, but of course I already knew that McDonald’s was international. Their paper cups and things even have multiple languages written on them. Conversation continued in the melodies of Spanish. I understood very little unless it was spoken directly to me, and even then I sometimes needed a translation. Most of the talking wasn’t for or about me and my culture. I didn’t expect it to be though. I was with my friend’s family, his mom and dad, sister, brother-in-law, and their son. (The proud uncle loved holding his nephew.) I dove into the wonderful flavor of ketchup and fries, and just listened to the foreign music in their language.

This visit was pretty short, and soon, after more pictures, we were zooming up I-35 again, coming back to America...

I was in America yesterday, and I started a conversation with another student who was from India...

Will you follow Him?

Aaron Adair

You are doing well to have a career that pays well, or you’re getting a degree that will get you a great job. God comes to you and says, “I want you to leave your job or future and follow my calling.” He calls you into a career for His glory to lead people to Christ. The pay is uncertain, but God says he will provide for you. The job he calls you to, gives you the greatest feeling in the world when you do it.

The question is... What do you do in this situation? Why? What leads you to be on one side over another?

Some people don’t take the time to hear if God is calling.

Some people do follow God’s call. Those are the people who teach you or help you grow in a personal relationship with Christ.

“When you respond to His call you have a joy that no material thing can replace,” said Norman FCA regional director, Mike Whitson. Whitson said, “Money doesn’t bring your fulfillment. God will provide everything you need when you have faith in Him.”

Business owner Jean Conner said, “The problem with God’s calling is that it is not always clear.”

God gives us direction and we second-guess it. Man tries to discern if the voice he hears is really God. “We second guess the voice”, Conner said.

If we knew for certain that the Holy Spirit was leading us, I do not think there would be one of us that would ignore his leading. “We are going so fast that we are not sure what is of God”, Conner said.

Some people would follow God, but the surrounding world could sway them elsewhere, if they had too many responsibilities.

“If I was called to walk the Lord’s path I would have no problem doing so. However, I have no family responsibilities at this time, thus I can make this decision for myself and by myself,” said Christian Dennie, OU law student.

Dennie said, “whatever blessings the Lord would give me for following him would be spectacular, but the corruptness of the world could sway this decision.”

1 Peter 5:7 “Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. 8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.” NIV

Religion and Democracy Panel

Aaron Adair

The panel discussion on religion and democracy focused on politics much more than it did on religion.

Dr. Allen Hertzke mainly talked about the countries that integrate church and state do not have a democracy. Countries with religious leaders have other types of government than democracy.

The panel was evenly matched with political and religious members, but the main issue of focus was politics. One of the issues with religion and democracy is that less than 20 percent of countries led by religious leaders have democracy. This is because many of the religious led countries are Islamic where there is some type of absolute rule.

Dr. Jill Irvine talked about Iran and their attempt for democracy, but Iran’s attempt at democracy is not complete. They still have issues to work out.

The most influential panelist of religion was Dr. Bruce Prescott. He is a Baptist preacher in Oklahoma. He focused on the golden rule God commands Christians to follow: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

Prescott talked about the history of Baptists and their struggle for liberty in the colonies. Baptists were revoked by all the colonies except Rhode Island, which was founded by the first Baptist preacher in America. Baptists did not get liberty until the writing of the Constitution. With the Constitution Baptist had absolute liberty to have a relationship with God.

Lastly, the panelist talked about how democracy and theocracy could not mix. If I were to rename this panel, I would title it: Politics and Religion don’t mix well together.

“We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us! It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.”—Abraham Lincoln

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| Chips & Salsa   | $2.25 |
| Corn Dog        | $1.00 |
| Chips           | $0.50 |
| Pickle Spear    | $0.25 |
| Jalapeno's      | $0.25 |
| Greek Peppers   | $0.25 |
| Drinks (24 oz.) | $1.25 |
| Coca Cola      |
| Root Beer      |
| Dr. Pepper     |
| Lemonade       |
| Diet Coke      |
| Sprite         |

PIZZA

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God goes to War contd. from P1

The Rabbi spent a considerable amount of time on a story from the book of Samuel. In this recording, Saul, the current king of Israel, is commanded to wipe out an entire people. He does so, but spares the king and his livestock. Well, the prophet of the era, Samuel, angered by Saul’s disobediences to the Lord, draws his sword, and beheads the king. This was all described by Hirschfield. He eventually concluded that people count more than ideas, and that ideas were not meant to serve people.

His final topic of the evening, probably the most provocative thought of the night, was something he called “Sacred Doubt.” He defined sacred doubt as the valuing of ambiguity in convictions, the appreciation of uncertainties in faith. He said this was rooted in the question of what is right versus what is right to do.

I’m not sure how to take all of this. I was at first impressed by his optimistic words of peace, unity, and understanding. Yet, unfortunately, his words seemed to go down the same path we have all heard more and more with each passing day. There is this invading idea in the world that mankind is the ultimate authority of his destiny. “Sacred Doubt,” and the appreciation of uncertainty, as well as valuing man above all else, is dangerous territory for anyone who believes in something greater than themselves. I agree that ideas should never be greater than the life around which they are founded. However, if you reduce God to something as trivial as an idea, you are digressing beyond thousands of years of universal revelation to all of mankind. The world as we know it believes in God (higher power). That has never really been the question historically. The question has been will we acknowledge this God, and seek to know Him? Furthermore, when He is known, will we obey Him? This is the question. In an era where man is exalted above all, the greatest challenge is to obey Him, especially when men say otherwise. This same challenge applies even when God goes to war.

My Perspective of God goes to war: questions and answers
Ricky Thomas

My perspective is taken more from the question and answer session that took place after the lecture. Rabbi Bradley Hirschfield said some very questionable things during the lecture but even more during the question and answer time. He expressed his love for religion or spiritual experience. I on the other hand do not love religion. Religion is a manmade attempt to reach God or be a god. As Hirschfield said, “What do we, as the practitioners of religion, make religion say?” This statement implies that it’s more up to humans to form their own beliefs or way to reach God, than to allow God to reach us through His Word. He questioned the integrity of the character of God portrayed in the Samuel story previously mentioned. When Lulie Maumenee from the audience asked a question about God being absolute in reference to the Samuel account, Hirschfield’s response was to further explain his own belief that God as a character in a biblical story is different from “God”- who is perfect. This belief seemed to be different from what other Jewish members of the audience held and aroused other questions along the same line. I waited for someone to mention satan. There had been no mention of satan during the lecture and finally the last two questions were the same. “What about the biblical belief of an adversary?” Hirschfield seems to have no clear resolution for such an adversary and explained that if God is “all”, then evil could not be separate. Wow, I was shocked! Can someone say “One World Order here we come?”, where all religion will be the same. This is a message for the “times”, no doubt. The obvious consequence of such a belief is that if satan is not separate from God, then hate and love are neither separate. There would be no such thing as wrong.

James 1:17 “ Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.”

Bible & Current news

Across
2. Breastplate
4. When ___ goes to war.
7. ___ of the earth
10. God is not a man that He should ___
13. the ___ commission
16. Without love, we are ___ gongs
18. lead Democrat candidate (two words)
21. In this government, Christians should ___
22. greater than faith and hope
23. made clothes out of ___
27. Protect the sanctity of ___
28. Make ___
30. Separates us from God
31. all of the time, God is ___
33. www.____.edu/beaconou
37. Adoration: The Tour. Name of Band
38. ___ of the world
39. Adam and ___
40. Paul’s prior name
44. President
46. by grace
47. One of the reasons that Sodom and Gomorrah was destroyed: they did ___ things
49. betrayed with a ___
52. A taking away
53. ___ world2004

Down
1. Without ___ it is impossible to please God.
2. What ever a man sows, that he will ___
3. ___ of faith
5. Giant killer
6. not ten suggestions (two words)
8. a lamp unto my feet and a light to my path. (two words)
9. Seek and ___ the lost
11. Messengers of God
12. supernatural happenings
14. Guns, God, and ___ (current news)
15. Morning drink
17. sword of the ___
19. a ___ from Nazareth.
20. is a LIGHT to the campus.
23. We are in the ___ days.
24. “Follow me and I will make you ___ of men.”
25. ___ lead ___ and fall into a ditch. (one word)
26. Barnabas was a great ___ to Paul.
29. Before Abraham. Two words
32. “For many are called but few are ___”
34. God is not willing that ___ should perish
35. ___ of salvation
36. The only Way.
41. Director of controversial movie (two words)
42. ___ spirit before a great fall
43. night drink
45. all that labor and are ___ laden”
46. the publishing of a newspaper is a ___ service
48. The ___ to complete this puzzle with all of the right answers and give it to Ricky at the BeaconOU table will receive a free gift.
50. Delilah said to ___
51. the husband of Mary
52. “I am waiting for you”, said ___
53. The ___ of Christ
57. After having done all that you can to stand, ___