

From: **Garth Hewitt Foundation** noreply@garthhewitt.org  
Subject: GHF Newsletter November 2014  
Date: 27 November 2014 12:16  
To: isobel@garthhewitt.org



from Garth...

## Garth's new book, and some Advent inspiration

Hello again,

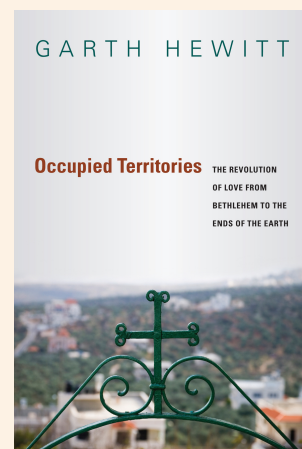
In the last newsletter I started to speak about the new album **Something for the Soul** and this time I want to talk about the new book **Occupied Territories** - with the snappy little subtitle 'The Revolution of Love from Bethlehem to the ends of the Earth'.

Actually that subtitle gives the theme of the book, but the title **Occupied Territories** is explained in the preface with these words: "Somewhere around 4BC the prince of peace was born. A word, a statement, an action, a lifestyle, a revolution of love burst with hope from Bethlehem - at the time occupied territory - showing us how to live as a kingdom or community of love. Now Bethlehem is occupied territory once again. But a movement is being born again there that says there is a better way, a non violent way, still reflecting the values of the prince of peace."

I'd been asked to write the book by **Jeff Crosby of IVP USA** who heard me many years before in concert in the States and had kept an eye on me! He asked if I would write a book on justice - and Chris Rose, **Amos Trust's** Director, had just talked to me about writing a book that reflected the justice principles underlying **Amos Trust**.



So the book reflects a theology inspired by figures like Martin Luther King and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, but also the actions and lifestyle of our partners and friends like Gustavo Parajon, Naim Ateek, and Jasmine Devadason who writes a special piece on the prophet Amos for the book. From the emphasis of Gustavo Parajon's words



“**God loves justice**”, and Naim’s reminder that the word “righteousness” should be translated as

“justice”, to the amazing interpretation of “the meek shall inherit the land” by Mitri Raheb, the book reflects the wisdom of friends and partners.

## **Bethlehem theology**

The book also tells something of the journey that Amos Trust has been on, learning about what I call 'Bethlehem theology' - a theology made visible in Bethlehem that instantly reflects a commitment to the poor and the marginalised. A theology of liberation that brings a way of life making justice visible.

I spend time in one chapter introducing people to the **Kairos Palestine document** - a deeply prophetic message of hope from Palestinian Christians challenging us to respond and bring support and hope in that painful situation.

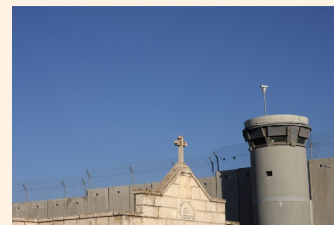
Then I take time to look at issues that are causing havoc in our world today such as the love of money, the love of war, the assumption that violence can solve problems, and the deepening problem of inequality that tears apart our communities.

In the last chapter I am looking at what Archbishop Tutu calls “the tender network of interdependence” and the lessons learnt from the African viewpoint of Ubuntu.

## **For challenge and discussion**

I hope the book will be both practical and an encouragement - Isobel, my PA, has put questions at the end of each chapter which will be helpful for discussion groups - it shows not only why Amos Trust has taken the direction it has (there’s an appendix about Amos Trust's journey) but also the ongoing challenge in front of us and how the values of the liberator from Bethlehem (and Nazareth) should be interwoven in our lives and into our actions.

So **Occupied Territories** aims to reflect a theology of action that started in Bethlehem 2000 years ago and is being continued in Bethlehem today. Hopefully showing the way to a revolution of love and justice, a revolution that is relevant all around the world - a revolution of non-violence, of valuing all people as equal; a call to do justice and to show the values of hope and humanity in whatever situation we find ourselves. I think we need something like this in the current climate of violence all across the world.



*Bethlehem*

Cornwall at a conference just recently - I really enjoyed it - it's a nice moment, to be out and chatting about it and telling the stories of what we've learnt from our partners, friends and others who've inspired us.

---

## Advent and Christmas

As I write this we are close to Advent Sunday – I hope we will all be inspired and renewed on the Advent journey to Bethlehem – may the message of the birth at Bethlehem reawaken us all this year to be the community of love, justice and peace.

O God, from the heart of Bethlehem  
From the heart of occupied land  
You have sent a message  
To shake the world  
Thank you for the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem  
That gives so many clues as to your character  
In the birth of this child we discover a spirituality  
Of hope, peace, justice  
Thank you that a child born in simplicity  
Amongst a poor community  
Speaks of the values of the way of peace  
Thank you that you are a God of the poor  
The marginalised  
Those for whom there is no room  
And that's why this is a way of life and a theology  
That gives such hope  
Because no one is forgotten  
May we hear the call  
And live out the lifestyle  
That helps to build a community  
That reflects this alternative way  
Of a loving God  
A community of justice  
That asserts simplicity  
Humility  
And the worth of every human being  
Thank you that you are a humble, generous God  
Who stopped to show us the way of love  
In Bethlehem



Especially for Advent, Garth has produced a meditational video of his song 'Bethlehem is Calling' for use in worship or for personal meditation - all are welcome to use it

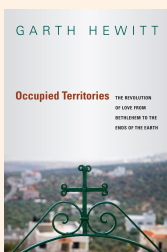
find it [here](#)

---

Garth's book "Occupied Territories" is one of the finalists in the IVP Reader's Choice Award - you can [add your vote by clicking here](#) and ticking the relevant box

---

Order Garth's new book **Occupied Territories, the Revolution of Love from Bethlehem to the Ends of the Earth**, and his new album **Something for the Soul**, by clicking on their images below



---

The Garth Hewitt Foundation exists to advance, support, and circulate Garth's body of work

To support the work of The Garth Hewitt Foundation click [here](#) and follow the 'Support the GHF' button

---



©2014 Garth Hewitt Foundation | 186 Hykeham Road, Lincoln, LN6 8AP

Web Version

Forward

Unsubscribe