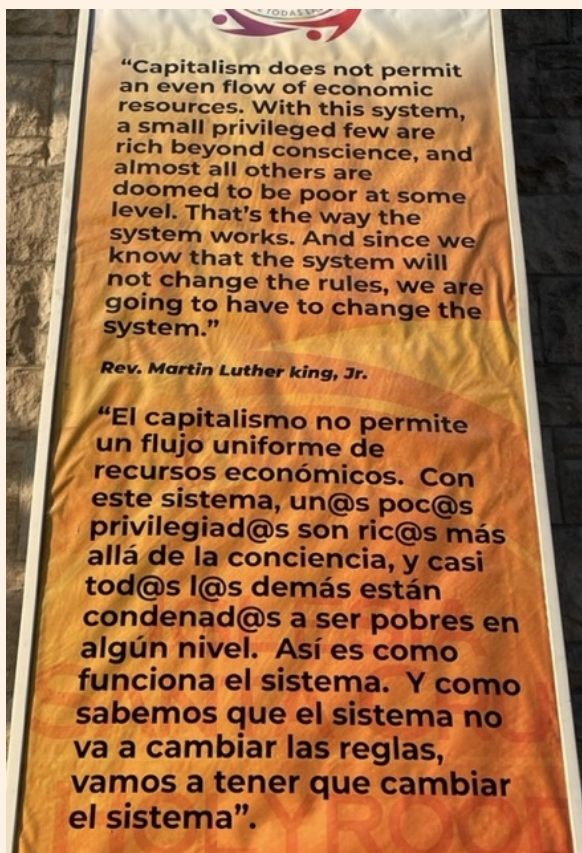




from Garth...

From Washington Heights to Fort Wayne



Martin Luther King quote in Holyrood Church/Iglesia Santa Cruz

Our son Joe and his wife Lisa, and their two little children Arlo and Luma, have moved recently within New York City to Washington Heights. Our previous visit to Joe and the family was when they lived in the Bronx and only had one grandchild - Arlo, so we were keen to see him again and see what their new neighbourhood was like, and of course meet the new grandchild Luma!

So in September Gill and I went out to visit them.

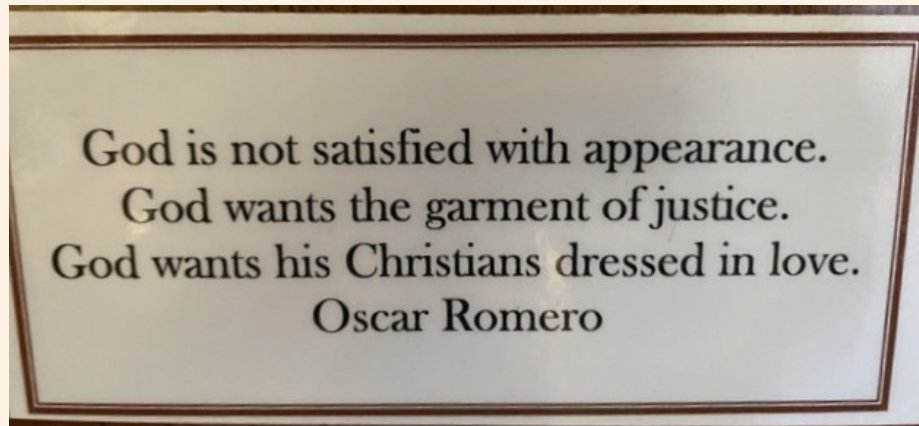
A key part of the visit to Joe and Lisa is the early morning walk to nursery, with Arlo and Luma. It is enjoyable and a good chance to get the feel of the neighbourhood. Also the walk back seems to provide the opportunity for coffee and croissants, as we set out before my

breakfast! On our walk we passed two churches - and both had a commitment to a gospel that reaches out to the neighbourhood.

The first thing that caught my eye outside Holyrood Church/Iglesia Santa Cruz was a striking and very relevant Martin Luther King quote on capitalism. I found it a fascinating quote because I imagined they might put up one of his best known quotes but instead it's a quote about capitalism which seems to have a

tremendous relevance to today's world.

The other church, Fort Washington Collegiate Church, had a 'Black Lives Matter' banner, and an LGBT+ flag; there was also food being made available to the community each day; Iglesia Santa Cruz also had an LGBT+ Flag and was visibly caring for the homeless, as well as having a women's group ministry.



This neighbourhood very much reflects both Spanish and English with a high percentage of Hispanics or Latinos, and is particularly known for its Dominican population. One day I popped in to the Iglesia Santa Cruz on the way back from the nursery run, and came into a little side chapel which was dedicated to **Archbishop Oscar Romero**. Just a small chapel but it had pictures of Romero and even a little statue on the altar. On the back of the wooden screen that sets aside the chapel, there are photos and tremendous words of Oscar Romero.



Joe's wife Lisa has family roots in El Salvador and so Arlo is being introduced to English and Spanish. Arlo is nearly two and seems to speak better Spanish than me!

The Mexican restaurant over the road, 'Con Sabor A Mexico' is proud of its authentic Mexican food. It was my favourite restaurant. **It has a picture of the Virgin of Guadalupe - Patron Saint of Mexico.**

I did a re-recording of my song Oscar Romero on the latest album, [Easter Revolution](#), with an extra, spoken, verse:

**My son Joe and his wife Lisa went down to El Salvador –
her family are from there and her father still lives there
and while there they visited the tomb of Oscar Romero
where they saw these words he had spoken -
“If they kill me I will rise again in the people of El Salvador.”
Joe commented, “They did and he did.”**

Monsignor Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, was assassinated while leading Mass on March 24th 1980.

On Sunday 14th October 2018 Oscar Romero was Canonised as a Saint by Pope Francis and we released [this video/song on YouTube](#) at that time, in tribute to his outspoken support for the poor, his steadfast stand against all injustice, and against violence. The music here in this version is from the song's original 1985 release on the Alien Brain album - you can hear the new recording by [buying the Easter Revolution album here](#)

Indiana Center for Middle East Peace - Fort Wayne

In the middle of the visit we responded to an invitation from Michael Spath, of the Indiana Center for Middle East Peace, to come and do a concert down in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Helpfully our son Joe became the road manager for the trip!

The Fort Wayne gig was originally to have been in 2020 but Covid knocked that on the head, and when that happened Michael asked me to do a Zoom concert and he interviewed me between the songs - so we had rather assumed that that would be it, and we were delighted that Michael was still keen for there to be a live concert - it turned out to be a very special event.

We flew from JFK Airport to Detroit. Joe then drove us to Fort Wayne, a two and a half hour ride through beautiful countryside.

The first evening Michael asked me if I would say a few words to an informal group, which I did, and they then had a Q & A session which was fun, thoughtful and reflecting a strong commitment to justice for the Palestinians. I ended by singing two songs - one was the new song called [Standing Against Apartheid](#) - this was the first time I'd sung it live and it was good to hear people joining in. Then I closed with an

older song from the album **Stealing Jesus Back** called *The Way Of Peace*, which seemed very relevant and ends with the thought of being 'on the side of the rebel Jesus' - a reference to Jackson Brown's song of that name.

The next morning Michael organised a brunch to meet various people who had been supportive of the concert. In the afternoon he interviewed me with some great questioning - and then it was time for the concert.

The concert was in a church, the Amistad Cristiana Center, which again was partly Spanish speaking - the Pastor comes from Mexico, and partly English speaking - his wife is from Burbank in California.

I was encouraged by the utter support I got from people who came up and thanked me particularly for the Palestinian songs - this was a welcoming, warm, passionate, justice-orientated community.

Darrel Meyers - Guitar Carrier!

We were joined for the weekend by long-time friend Darrel Meyers, also from Burbank. He flew across the country especially to be with us. I first met Darrel when he carried my guitar for me at a Sabeel conference in Jerusalem! We immediately formed a friendship and on several occasions he invited me to Southern California to do concerts. **He is passionate in his commitment to justice and the Palestinian cause, but also being a man with a great sense of humour it's always a bonus to have him around!** Darrel brings a longtime committed friendship, and that brought another dimension to the weekend.

Joe and the World Cup

Having been my roadie for the trip to Fort Wayne, Joe, who is founder of **The Sports Creative**, is heading to Qatar for the FIFA World Cup. Joe's organization has collaborated to deliver a football storytelling programme that will exhibit to fans throughout the World Cup - bringing the global diversity of football culture to life through photography, video, written word, and spoken word. Our thoughts and prayers will be with you Joe.

A passionate message from Ambassador Husam Zomlot about the Prime Minister's suggestion to move the UK Embassy to Jerusalem



Ambassador Husam Zomlot, Head of the Palestinian Mission to the United Kingdom since October 2018

In a recent conversation with Chris Rose, Director of **Amos Trust**, Ambassador Husam Zomlot said, “International law is very clear on the matter of Jerusalem. Any change to the city’s status — holy to three religions — must be agreed upon with both sides and then endorsed by the UN. Those are the clear international rules.

Unilaterally moving the UK embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem accedes to Israel’s illegitimate claim to all of the city, is done without Palestinian agreement and without the UN’s sanction. It is illegal and it is also immoral; Jerusalem is not just holy to one religion, it is central to three.

Giving it to Israel or suggesting that you are willing to give it to Israel is tantamount to switching off the life-support on which the two-state outcome currently survives.”

*from a recent newsletter of **Amos Trust***

Prayer - Make A Difference In The World



**May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers
Half truths, superficial relationships,
So that you will live deep within your heart**

May God bless you with anger at injustice,
Oppression and exploitation of people,
So that you will work for justice, equity and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection,
starvation and war
So that you will reach out your hand to comfort them and change their pain to
joy

And may God bless you with the foolishness to think that you can make a
difference in the world,
So that you will do the things which others tell you cannot be done.

Amen

*Taken from '600 Blessings and Prayers from Around the World', edited by Geoffrey
Duncan*

Geoffrey Hewitt



*Songs for living the Easter
Revolution throughout the year –
to remind us that the Easter
Revolution is for life, not just for
Easter. Click on the image to
order your copy, either CD or
MP3 download*



A double album of songs, prayers and stories about the Land once known as 'holy' - click on the image to order your copy - also available as MP3 download



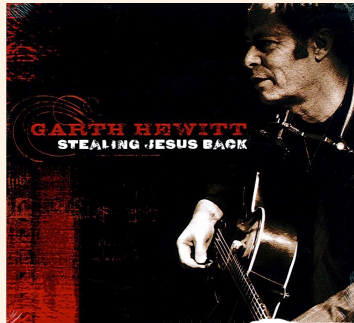
An album of rest and encouragement for campaigners and activists, a place to draw strength and be renewed. Garth is saying that God's way is the way of beautiful resistance, non violence, and standing with each other – if you do that you discover God in one another. Click on the image to order your copy.



This double CD is a companion to Garth's book Against the Grain, contains some new songs like Against the Grain itself, songs from different stages of Garth's recordings, and some demos not previously released. Click here to order your copy - also available as MP3 download



A CD of songs emphasising the dignity and value of each human being, with a strong rejection of the arms trade and war - click the image to order your copy



This 2006 album is iconic Garth - at the time of its release Essential Christian.com said, "Stealing Jesus Back brings you Garth's most significant offering to date and is destined to be the album to prove that the best is worth waiting for!" We are offering it at an amazing £5, click the image to order your copy.

Despite advertisements that may appear on some of Garth's YouTube videos, Garth derives no income from the resources he provides online, and his work of songwriting, recording, and travelling is supported entirely by donations to the **Garth Hewitt Foundation** and by the sale of items purchased from **his website**.

You can donate to **The Garth Hewitt Foundation here**, and we are gradually making more and more of his music available as MP3 downloads which you can purchase from **the music pages of his website**.



[Web Version](#)[Preferences](#)[Forward](#)[Unsubscribe](#)

Powered by **Mad Mimi®**
A GoDaddy® company