

Roy & Chris Cochran's March/April 2011 Newsletter

Roy Cochran

HOME OFFICE

4985 Via Marta
Carlsbad, CA 92008

Worship Foundations International

P.O. Box 158524
Nashville, TN 37215

PHONE

619.520.9907

EMAIL

roy@roycochran.com

WEB

www.roycochran.com



Château Cochran – Front “Yard” – A Work in Progress...

Painters coming in from all over the country. I am so happy to be meeting weekly with a number of people seeking to grow together in our life in Christ. I continue to be invited to guest worship lead a few times a month at various churches, which is so great, and I'm so honored. AND ... I'm working on our house.

“Working on the house” seems to be a never-ending career and I've come to find much joy in working on her these days. My latest endeavor is the front yard. Our 1970's house has had ONE look for the last 35 years in the front yard– ROCKS. I'm not sure you can even CALL it a “yard” with rocks covering every square inch of ground. A “quarry” might be more appropriate. So ... after living here for 5+ years, I decided to tackle the front yard which quickly became MUCH MORE COMPLICATED than I anticipated. To get things rolling, Chris put an ad on CraigsList saying. “FREE LANDSCAPE ROCKS – COME AND TAKE AWAY!” She posted that on a Friday. That night at 10pm while watching something on TV I heard the oddest sound coming from the front yard. It sounded like scraping followed by a loud semi-metallic crunch. As I looked out the window cautiously, there was a pick-up truck parking in my front “yard” with two masked (think dust masks – not terrorists) Asian people feverishly shoveling our rocks into the back of their truck! They didn't knock. They didn't even stop when I walked out side. I informed them of the time and that they should return in the morning. At 6am there were 5



Rocks or “Landscaping” in our front yard.

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pick-up trucks and even more cultures represented “going for it” in our “front yard” for the most desirable colored rocks. They seemed to like the brown lava rock best. It was the funniest thing you’ve ever seen. Not sure what exactly was being said but there were some turf wars going on for a while. By a little after 8am all that was left was a few piles of dirt mixed with the left over rock. They took it ALL!!!! That was awesome and hilarious.



Redwood provided by Father-in-Law



More Provision...

Since then, we spent hours and hours dreaming, designing, pricing, then redesigning a plan for what our front yard would look like. It actually was semi-paralyzing. Both of us are pretty creative so when you have a blank canvas the possibilities really are endless. So we started with the essentials – we now need WATER. So we started to design an irrigation system but realized we couldn’t complete that till we knew where the pipes had to go . . . and we’re back to needing the master plan. AAARRRGGGGG! Another funny story was me attempting to connect to the main water line for our sprinklers and breaking our main line. I had a geyser shooting straight up from the hole I was digging.

We were kinda stuck for a while rethinking what we might do. I had some great pieces of redwood given to me from my father-in-law I had in the back yard under tarps waiting for “the right project” I would use them on. We had thought of a trellis in entryway of the house and yes, I had 10 versions of what that might look like. A couple weeks ago, I thought “ I’m just going to dig a couple holes and place these posts in the ground to get a “feel” for this project. Well, I just kept going. Those posts led to the cross beams, which established the entry area. That inspired me to begin the outline for the new walkway, which led to the boundary for the patio area. Before long a “design” began to emerge which is looking better than any of our previous plans! Fortunately, I’m fairly handy when it comes to carpentry and stuff like that so I can do the work and save the cost of labor. Unfortunately, for my 51-year-old body, I’m fairly handy when it comes to carpentry and stuff like that so I can do the work and save the cost of labor. Actually, I find great pleasure in building and creating rather than purchasing or hiring. (But that seems to also be changing the more “seasoned” I become.

I am finding that my life in Christ is very much like my front yard project. We start with the essentials – WATER. In scripture WATER refers to both the Holy Spirit and to God’s Word. WE NEED WATER! Enough said.



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Next CLEAR AWAY THE ROCKS in your life. Wish THAT was as easy as a Craig'sList posting. The ROCKS in your life probably have been there for a long time, just like my 35 year old rocks. The actually semi-defined the place we lived. "Third house on the right. The one with the ROCKS!" Rocks can represent old mindsets in your life that probably came from some wounds or harsh words spoken over you as a child or as an adult. These mindsets can actually hinder your transformational life in Christ. They can also open doors of opportunity for the enemy of our soul to attack and oppress. The Bible refers to these things as "strongholds". Check this out:

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (Amplified Bible) *For though we walk (live) in the flesh, we are not carrying on our warfare according to the flesh and using mere human weapons. For the weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood], but they are mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds, [Inasmuch as we] refute arguments and theories and reasonings and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God; and we lead every thought and purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).*

When it comes to ROCKS or things that you are not real fond of in your life but you've said "well, that's just the way I am", I can say it doesn't have to be that way any more. And like getting rid of my front yard rocks, it's a good idea to not try to accomplish this on your own. Call in some friends who pray with authority and let's get rid of those things that do not belong in a Child of God's life. Replace those thoughts or mindsets with who God says you are.



START WITH WHAT YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN GIVEN. At times we find ourselves looking at our lives, our careers, our unemployment, our ministry, our marriage, our singleness - you fill in the blank and we can have a sense of "how did I get here?" and or "how do I get out of here?". It's easy to become paralyzed when such a big change or transformation is needed and or wanted. Like in my front yard, the possibilities can be ENDLESS. The reasons for why we are where we are can also be endless. And so can the advise of friends. I'd would encourage you to get some time with your FATHER – go on a prayer walk or prayer drive and talk it over with Him. Instead of questions like "what do I do?", maybe ask "what do You think about my circumstances Lord?" or "what do You want me to see in this season. Lord?" My on-going experience has been as I keep water (Word, Holy Spirit) in my life, and as He begins to clear away rocks

and debris from my life through prayer, my listening ear in prayer begins to work! He actually communicates to my heart in a way I know it's Him. Sometimes it's through a friend. At times it's through His Word and many times it's that still small voice in my heart. It's been in times with the Lord that HE has shown me what He has already given me.

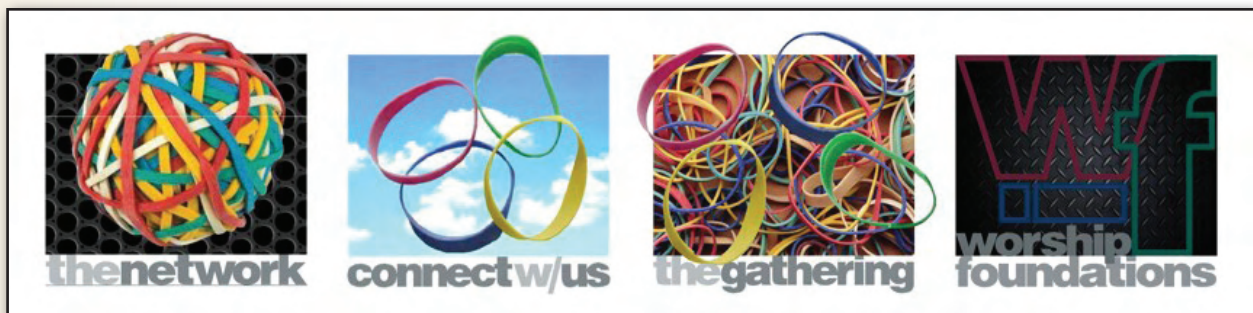
My front yard has been and will continue to be a creative process combining dreams with some hard work discovering along the way the joy of the process. It's funny that people in the neighborhood that I had never met stop by to comment about the change they see and love in the yard. I've also found that to be true of our lives when we allow Jesus to work in our lives. Not really sure what the end result will look like in the yard, but with you and I, we'll look remarkably more and more like Jesus.



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Worship Mentor News

The 2011 Worship Mentor Gathering: May 15-17, in Laguna Beach, California and is officially full with a record capacity. That sounds impressive right? Actually, this is an invitation only event designed to be a small group of key leaders in the world of Worship Arts from around the country where we can have more of a conversation with each other. This year's facilitator is Ian Cron. We find there are plenty of worship conferences that impart loads of information, inspirational speakers and "how to" workshops that are amazing. We have just found that when it comes to mentoring, the most effective life transformation happens in the context of experience and relationship. At the Gathering, the Lord pours deep into our lives with Him and with each other. If we can't pass on to the next generation a life that knows how to walk WITH Christ, what's the use of showing them the latest song or way to design a service. To peek into the happenings of this year's Gathering, go to www.worshipmentorgathering.com. I invite you to be praying for our time together. The Lord is building this community of seasoned, experienced men & women who are joining Him as He uses them to strengthen & encourage the current and next generation of those called worship arts ministry both within and without the church. My role seems to be one of a curator than a director. We just invite people into an environment to look at what the Lord is building and their response is their response to Him. I'm so honored to serve and be part of this creative, artistic, anointed community.



We continue to press towards the launch date of our new website for the Worship Mentor Network. My friend, artist Tom Clark (www.tomclarkstudio.com) also part of the worship mentor network is providing his gift to the website. These are a couple of his buttons for the site. This site will facilitate the strengthening and encouragement of hundreds of leaders and mentors.

As I said at the beginning of this Newsletter, I am so happy to be meeting with so many amazing people who want, just like I do, to go deeper in our walks with Jesus, resulting in the transformed life He promised is available to His adopted sons and daughters. Talk about starting with what you've been given, HELLO! THAT is a whole other NEWSLETTER!

Christine and I are seeing so much fruit in the ministry you allow us to lean into. We continue to be amazed at the graces the Lord continues to show us. How He continues to heal and empower us for His glory. We are so privileged He has called us to trust Him to in this way of living. Your monthly gifts always bring a smile to our hearts as we receive God's provision for us through you, His body. Your love, prayers and responsiveness to Him is such a beautiful thing to be part of. You are such an important part of His ministry through us. I know it might sound odd, but when people learn we live by faith in God to provide for our needs through gifts and donations as we are about our Father's business – LOVING PEOPLE/ LOVING GOD, they either put us in the "good for you" category or they say, "cool" but they mean is, "dang, I hope I never have to live that way!" In most cases, including these they can't help but see God in it all and that is very cool.



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We hope you feel included in all these happenings and we pray this newsletter will strengthen & encourage you with what the Lord is doing in and through this ministry. We believe your prayers ARE opening all these doors. We plan to continue sending these letters to you once a month, even if we are a little late. And remember, you are welcome to visit our website at www.roycochran.com. Check out my **blogs** on my website and visit us on **FACEBOOK** every week or so for weekly updates and encouragements. Please keep in touch. We love hearing from each of you and love seeing you even more. We'd love to have you over for dinner and catch up with what He is doing in your life. Your prayers and donations have increased our faith and His kingdom and are particularly valuable to us in the times in which we live. Thank you for sacrificially supporting us!

If God is leading you to begin to contribute to us or if you would like to send a one time gift please send your contribution to by check or credit card.

To partner with us by check, (Make checks payable to):

Worship Foundations International
P.O. Box 158524
Nashville, TN 37215.

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Simply go to the **Worship Foundations International web-site's Donation Page.**

Choose the **"Designate Your Donation"** button and choose **Roy Cochran** from the list and enter the amount of your support. Then click submit.

Thank you all for allowing God to love us, to encourage us, to support us through your lives, through your words, through your gifts. In 2011, may you see more and more of Who God is and more and more of what He has done. And may your response to that be WORSHIP!

We love you and are thankful for each one of you!

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