



The Equipping Conference: to the right of me, Ryan Mitchell, Denver Solomon, and Duan Dutoit

“And we proclaim Him ...” (Colossians 1:28-29)

Dear Friends,

November 19, 2024

The writer of Ecclesiastes reminds us that “There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven.” That said, it is high time I quickly update you on the ministry here in Cape Town.

Much has happened since our last letter at the end of August. Mid-August saw me starting to lecture biblical Hebrew for the first time in thirty years of ministry! I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching Hebrew for the first time. I am not quite sure my students share my enthusiasm, as they have been a bit overwhelmed. I do appreciate their patience and understanding as I often stumbled through the material. In the end, I think I learned more than they have so far. Their final exam is next week, so I will find out how much they really learned then!

On the Ph.D. front, I was asked to present my reworked prospectus (proposal) to the Master’s Seminary Ph.D. Committee. So, on October 9th, I presented the significant changes I have made since last December’s presentation. The committee was gracious in allowing me to present online this time, although, for me, that meant presenting at 10 PM to accommodate the nine-hour time difference. Thankfully, it went well, and I am officially writing the dissertation now.

A few days after the prospectus presentation, I had the privilege of speaking at The Equipping Conference hosted by our old church plant, Living Hope Bible Church. It was a tremendous joy to share the pulpit with Pastor Denver Solomon and two other South African men on themes related to the Reformation. The worship was as sweet as the fellowship. It was especially heartening to see a church Debbie and I labored in for 11 years go on to host such a conference!

Debbie and I continue to maintain a meaningful ministry at Everglen Baptist Church alongside Tiny and Sue Coupar. It is hard to believe that Tiny was a student of mine thirty years ago. Over the last few months, the church has endured significant turmoil. It is a sober reminder of how Satan can take something small and blow it up beyond all believable bounds.

I am happy to report Everglen seems to have weathered the storm by God's good grace! Through it all, we as elders worked as one in Christ to calm the choppy seas we found ourselves on. As I have told the other two elders many times, "The church can withstand almost anything as long as we are united in truth, love, and practice." That theory was put to the test with good results. Though the situation was often tense, God gave us much grace and wisdom to chart a course to shore. This has resulted in several positive outcomes for which we are grateful. Thank God for leading us through the night to the light of dawn.

It has been a very full and busy ministry year. Debbie and I are thankful for how the Lord has brought us through it all! One of the things Debbie and I are most thankful for is all of you who pray for us and have prayed for us for many years. Though it seems insufficient to say, thank you for being used by God to pray for us, support us, and encourage us in the work God called us to thirty years ago!

May you all have a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas season!

Yours for the Master's Use

Mark & Debbie Christopher

Cape Town, South Africa

Prayer & Praise Prompts:

- Praise for all the ministry opportunities God has given us and the strength and grace in which to minister.
- Praise for the church trial the Lord brought us through the last five months and all the lessons learned.
- Praise for 13 new members at Everglen Baptist Church. I had the privilege of taking them through Fundamentals of The Faith for 5 months before they were formally taken into membership.

- Pray for a young man named Regard Beukes. Regard is starting seminary studies through the Master's Seminary program called The Mentor Model. He will study online and doesn't have to leave Cape Time. I will serve as his mentor while he is studying. It is hoped that at the end of his M.Div. studies, he will be an intern at Everglen and eventually take over for Pastor Tiny Coupar. Regard will have to work full-time as an accountant while he studies and juggles family.
- Pray for Mike and Rudi at the Hermanus Bible Church. Debbie and I continue to help and advise them. We are going through this weekend (November 22-25) for a whole weekend of ministry there.