



Debbie and I with Bryn and Tim

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

Dear Friends,

October 27, 2023

Spring-time greetings from Cape Time. After a long cold and very wet winter, we are finally emerging from winter's chill as the sun-kissed vineyards evidence an advance toward summer! With the advent of warmer weather, the year-end pace is gradually increasing as we race toward another year. So, I thought I had better pen an update before the riptide of busyness pulls me from the shore of correspondence.

The last few weeks have seen me vigorously planning and organizing for the course schedule for the Berean Bible Institute (BBI) for 2024. I am extremely grateful for Etienne Neethling — he is my righthand man. Etienne is my IT coordinator and administrator, without whom I would be lost. Etienne and I have been meeting a couple times a week for the last several weeks to prepare for next year's classes. The only thing that remains now is to implement the plan. Etienne's IT savvy and gift of administration have been an invaluable help to me. I am most thankful for the financial help we receive from The Master's Academy International, out of Grace Church, which allows me to hire Etienne so BBI can operate.

Presently, Tuesday evenings see me teaching biblical hermeneutics (interpretation) for 3 hours at a time. We are piloting a hybrid method of teaching whereby I am in a classroom at the church with some students present while the rest of the class logs into our online platform from various parts of South Africa. To both my surprise and delight, some 70 students have signed up for this course. Among those taking the course are 2 Dutch Reformed pastors and 1 pastor from the Evangelical Reformed Church. Having some idea of the hermeneutical training these men have had, I hope and pray the principles of sound hermeneutics I am teaching will make a significant impact on them all!

In other news, Tim Cantrell, a fellow Master's Seminary alumnus and pastor in Joburg at Antioch Bible Church, recently visited us for a few days. Tim brought one of his students, Bryn George, to check out possible locations in Cape Town for a future church plant opportunity for Bryn. Debbie and I hosted them and showed them around and strategized with them about the possibilities. Tim has asked if we would partner with Antioch Bible Church and Bryn to help advise and support Bryn where we can when he moves here in a year or two. Until then, we will pray that the Lord prepares the soil and opens the right doors for such an endeavor.

Debbie continues a very active and fruitful ministry to the ladies of Everglen Baptist Church. She is currently teaching the ladies Tuesday morning Bible study from the book of Philippians. She also regularly meets with many of the ladies during the week to encourage and counsel them in spiritual pursuits. I have watched from a distance as several of the women have matured and grown in grace because of her tireless efforts!

As the year rapidly speeds to its terminus, I am hastily preparing my proposal for my dissertation. I need to present this to the Master's Seminary PhD committee on December 13th. Debbie and I will first fly to Dallas to have Thanksgiving with both our kids and son-in-law. Time with our kids is a rare luxury for us now that they are grown and stateside. So, we are eagerly looking forward to spending a few days with them. After Thanksgiving, we will head to LA for 2 weeks so I can present my proposal before flying home to Cape Town. Upon arriving back home, we will catch our breath for 5 days before flying to Durban to spend Christmas with Debbie's mom and brother.

Given all that is going on in ministry and life in general, we remain grateful for all your prayers and support we regularly receive for the work God called us to almost 30 years ago. Even though we are older now, we are busier than we have ever been, so please continue praying for us in this part of God's vineyard!

Yours for the Master's Use

Mark & Debbie Christopher

Serving in Cape Town, South Africa

Prayer & Praise Prompters

- We praise the Lord for all the interest in the BBI biblical hermeneutics course. Please pray that God will use this to dig a deeper furrow of faith in the lives of those in attendance. Especially those who have had poor hermeneutical influences in the past.
- We also praise the Lord for the impact Debbie is having on our ladies!
- Pray for the ongoing prep and plans for BBI in 2024. It will be a very busy year for us as we add more courses and begin teaching Greek and Hebrew.
- Please continue to pray for Mike and Rudi as I seek to advise them in their church plant in Hermanus. Incidentally, Mike and Rudi are in my class!
- Pray as well for the potential church plant in the Table View area of Cape Town as Antioch plans and prays about sending Byrn George our way within 2 years.
- Finally, please pray for Debbie and I as we travel to Dallas and onto LA before heading home before Christmas.