



Shepherd's Conference Speakers

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

Dear Friends,

August 27, 2024

As I write this update, the winter rain continues to fall outside my office window. Cape Town has had one of the wettest winters on record. It reminds me of my childhood growing up in the Pacific Northwest! Gratefully, our house has not succumbed to a leaky roof or flood damage, as many in the area have experienced. At least the dams and reservoirs are full!

Rain or shine, the ministry continues unabated! Just after our last update, we had the blessing of hosting a Cape Town Shepherd's Conference. We were immeasurably blessed to have Pastor Steve Swartz from Bakersfield, Carl Hargrove from Grace Church, and Brian Biedebach from The Master's Seminary as our keynote speakers. My fellow Berean Bible Institute lecturers and I took up some of the seminar slack in the breakout sessions.

We were not sure how many men would be in attendance. We were encouraged to have 75 attendees. It was a tremendous time of fellowship, edification, making new friends, and Christ-centered worship! I have heard from most of those who attended. They cannot wait until next year's conference. We have already begun planning for next year's conference, which will occur May 15th-17th. Two speakers are already confirmed. Given the response from this year's conference, we anticipate more than 100 men next year.

Earlier this year, I was introduced to Khaya Nini. Khaya is an African pastor in the sprawling Khayelitsha township outside Cape Town. Khaya is unique because he is an expository preacher striving to plant a biblical church in a township setting. He has asked for help and fellowship. I meet with him every few weeks for lunch and prayer. I had the privilege of preaching for him on Good Friday. He has asked me to preach at the end of October. He has also asked for help training lay leaders. I am trying to enlist other men from other churches in this endeavor.

One of our young men from Everglen Baptist Church recently applied to The Master's Seminary for The Mentor Model program. This will allow Regard to study online with me as his mentor, discipling him for the duration of his Master of Divinity degree. Regard has shown great promise and faithfulness over the last four years we have known him. He is married to Tanya and has two toddlers at home. He is a chartered accountant and has been very involved in body life at Everglen. He is a potential candidate to eventually replace Tiny Coupar, the pastor of Everglen Baptist. Regard will only start his studies in January 2025.

We could share many other things from the ministry menu God has given us, but this will hopefully give some idea of what is happening in this part of the world. There is much to pray for, which is why we appreciate your prayers.

May the Lord richly bless and keep you wherever you may be.

Yours for the Master's Use

Mark & Debbie Christopher

Cape Town, South Africa

Praise and Prayer Prompters!

- There is much to praise the Lord for regarding the Cape Town Shepherd's Conference. We met many men and had numerous providential conversations. Mike and Rudi from Hermanus (70 miles away) came through with a carload of men. Please pray for us as we plan and pray for next year's conference.
- Pray for Debbie and me as we continue to work with Everglens's young adults (18 to 30-year-olds). We are thrilled that attendance at our meetings has stayed at 15 to 20. I just finished a series on Discerning God's Will. The focus will now be on critical issues related to a biblical worldview. We pray that they do not become distracted by the world but continue focusing on the delights of Christ!
- Please pray for Khaya Nini as he labors alone in the difficult soil of Khayelitsha and for us as we seek the best way to help and encourage him.
- Pray for Regard and Tanya Beukes as they begin the pilgrimage of training for ministry. Regard will have more on his plate than he can handle when his studies start. He is a good student with a very sharp mind, so he should do well.
- I have been asked to speak at a Reformation conference on October 11th and 12th at Living Hope Bible Church (our former church plant). My two topics are Sola Scriptura and the Roman Catholic view of justification by faith. I would appreciate prayer for the preparation and delivery of the messages.