



Debbie and I were asked to give a ten-minute update at Grace Church the week before Shepherd's Conference!

“And we proclaim Him ...”

Colossians 1:28-29

Dear Friends,

April 21, 2025

It is necessary to begin with an apology for the tardiness of this update. It is long overdue. Just after Christmas, my 6-year-old computer began its demise. Since Debbie and I were heading to the US to attend the Shepherd's Conference and to see our kids, I decided to nurse it along so that I could save money by buying a new computer in the US. The same replacement computer in South Africa would have cost 50-percent more because of tariffs on everything imported into the country. By the time I received the new computer and managed to get all the old data transferred across, we were moving around and busy. Hence, the silence.

There is so much I could share with you, but both time and space limit me. One of the constants we have faced here for the last 30 years is the incremental and inexorable collapse of South Africa. This is evidenced by the deteriorating infrastructure and abysmal service delivery as well as an ailing economy that suffers from over regulation, and systemic corruption at all levels of government. In recent days, several pieces of legislation were signed into law that further the Marxist ambitions of the African National Congress. Most notable among these laws is the Expropriation (of property) Without Compensation Act (EWC). The sum of this bill means that the government can confiscate land, farms, or any property which the government arbitrarily decides “is in

the public interest” to do so. All without compensation. Zimbabwe followed a similar path 25 years ago and it led them from the breadbasket of Africa to basket-case status.

Soon after the EWC act was signed, land invasions began in various places around the country. Of course, none of this is being reported by the local media. This allows the government to claim it has not confiscated any land. Yet, by the government looking the other way when private land is invaded, it amounts to confiscation with land owners having no real recourse.

None of this has gone unnoticed by the Trump administration. This has resulted in escalated foreign-relation tensions between South Africa and the US. It seems clear to us that South Africa is probably headed for a Zimbabwe-like collapse, unless the African National Congress taps the brakes on its notoriously bad policies. All of which seems unlikely as they double down on their implementation of what they call the National Democratic Revolution a.k.a. full-fledged Marxism.

My purpose in sharing this is not to get political, but rather to highlight the unique challenges this presents for both life and ministry in this rapidly changing reality. Many of those to whom we ministry are left grappling with the ramifications of this uncertain context. Our response to this is to stay informed, maintain situational awareness, pray, and keep doing what God called us to do over 30 years ago. We have the blessed consolation that the king’s heart is God’s hands. As George Whitefield used to say, “We are immortal until God’s sovereign plan for our life is finished.”

On the ministry front, we are hastily preparing for next month’s Cape Town Shepherd’s Conference May 15th-17th. We certainly covet your prayers for the speakers and delegates alike. Sandwiched in between preparations and the conference are the day-to-day ministry and ebb and flow of life.

As I close this brief update, Debbie and I are grateful to have passed a significant ministry milestone in March as we celebrated 30 years of ministry in Cape Town! We are grateful for God’s provision and sustaining us all these years! Likewise, we are immensely thankful for all the wonderful partnerships God has blessed us with — both churches and individuals! We can never thank enough all those who have prayed, given, and encouraged us on this 30-year journey!

There is still much to do, so we are far from done. Please pray for us to continue running the race with patience while not growing weary in the well doing of ministry.

Yours for the Master’s Use

Mark & Debbie Christopher

Cape Town, South Africa.

Prayer & Praise Prompts

- Debbie and I have much to praise the Lord for as we reflect on 30 years of ministry! While we probably do not have another 30 years of ministry, we do look forward to what God has for us in the years ahead.
- Please continue praying for Regard Beukes. He is the young man in our church now studying for the ministry at The Master's Seminary through their online Mentor Model program. I am serving as Regard's mentor meeting with him weekly to disciple and help him practically apply what he is learning. He is progressing well. He works as the Chief Financial Officer at a local hospital, has a young family, and serves in our church. With seminary thrown on top of that, he has his hands full.
- Please pray for Reuben, a 16-year-old young man in our church. Reuben sought me out to meet with him on a regular basis. He is not a believer yet, so please pray for him as I continue to point him to Christ.
- Please pray for the upcoming Shepherd's Conference, May 15th-17th.
- Finally, please pray for ministry opportunities as the uncertain political and economic situation here in South Africa as things incrementally unravel.



The 2nd meeting of our new pastor's fellowship with other like-minded pastors in Cape Town!

