



Errol, Mike, and James enjoying dessert at the 2026 Cape Town Shepherds Conference

“And we proclaim Him ...”

Colossians 1:28-29

Dear Friends,

June 25, 2026

How time flies when you are doing ministry! Since our last update, so much has happened that it feels like ages ago. On April 21st, I boarded a United flight bound for Los Angeles via Washington D.C. After 4 days of partial recovery from jet lag, I had to do a presentation to the full Ph.D. Committee at The Master’s Seminary on the dissertation work done so far. After a 30-minute PowerPoint presentation, I was in the hot seat for another 30 or 40 minutes answering a barrage of questions on my dissertation work. Some valuable suggestions were made along the way. It concluded with permission to continue researching and writing. I don’t have to appear before the committee again until I am finished writing! From here on out, I will be working with my advisor and second reader.

After the presentation, I spent the next 3 days in various meetings, giving updates and conducting debriefings. I also made a trip to Grace To You, where I was generously given 300 John MacArthur booklets for our Cape Town Shepherds Conference. I then boarded the red eye to Baltimore to spend a long weekend with our daughter, Janelle. After a brief visit with Janelle, it was time to Uber to Dulles for the 15-hour flight home.

Upon arriving home, I had to begin final preparations for our Shepherds Conference. We were tremendously blessed to have an old TMS classmate, Ken Ramey, serve as

the keynote speaker. It was a special time of worship and fellowship with some 100 attendees. We have already begun planning for next year's conference.

For her part, Debbie held the fort when I galloped off to the US in April. She has kept quite busy teaching the weekly Tuesday morning ladies' Bible study, as well as her monthly Saturday meeting for those women who work and cannot attend Tuesday morning's study. She is currently taking her Saturday morning group through "Becoming A Godly Leader," material from XL Ministries. She also helps me with our monthly young adults' study by preparing a meal for everyone who attends.

We are now on the cusp of departing for a brief furlough in California. After attending the Grace Ministries International Conference at Grace Church, we head north to Vallejo to report back to four of our supporting churches. Those churches we don't visit on this trip, we will visit later next year.

In the midst of all that is going on in the ministry God has given us, we are extremely grateful for all the prayers offered up on our behalf! It is the prayers of the saints that have sustained us for 32 years on the field. It reminds us of the well-known saying of William Carey, who once told his supporters, "We're going down into the pit, you hold the ropes." We are humbled by those who hold the ropes of prayer on our behalf. May you never grow weary of this well-doing in Christ and for the cause of Christ.

May the Lord of the harvest richly bless and keep each of you as you serve Him in your respective location of the vineyard!

Yours for the Master's Use

Mark & Debbie Christopher

Prayer and Praise Prompters

- Praise: Debbie and I continue to marvel at God's goodness to us through those He has raised up to support us. In the last 3 or 4 years, we have lost 4 supporting churches in California due to the exodus from the state to friendlier, more affordable states. Yet unexpected gifts keep coming into our ECMI mission's account. This has significantly eased the immediate need to raise more support—at least for the time being. To those who have stepped into this gap, thank you for being used of the Lord to meet a need we never advertised.
- Please continue praying for the ongoing development of our hybrid seminary training through Central African Baptist University (CABU). There is still much planning underway to make this a reality for 2027. I continue to have regular meetings with the other 7 men around the country who are part of our steering committee.

- Please pray for our rapidly approaching trip to the US on June 29th. We will fly home on August 10th after spending 5 days with our daughter in Baltimore.
- Please continue praying for Mike and Rudi in Hermanus. They began their studies with The Master's Seminary Mentor Model program in January. They are a bit overwhelmed by the workload, but they are coping and continue to shepherd Hermanus Bible Church while studying full-time. Pray that the Lord continues providing for their daily bread needs and that they will strike the right balance between ministry, study, and family.
- Just prior to my April trip to LA, I had some blood work done. All the indicators but one were good, my PSA level was alarmingly high. Two weeks ago, I saw a urologist. She did an ultrasound and a couple of other preliminary tests in her office. Last week I had an MRI of my prostate. A couple of days ago, I received the MRI results. Unfortunately, there is a large lesion on the prostate. According to the MRI, there doesn't appear to be any cancer in any of the surrounding organs or bone. At this stage, there is no way to know whether the lesion is benign or cancerous. A biopsy will be performed as soon as Debbie and I return from our quick furlough to the US in early August. Once we know what we are dealing with, a treatment protocol can be decided upon. I certainly covet your prayers as we face this unexpected trial.



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