



With Voddie Baucham at Antioch Bible Church's Biblical Worldview Conference

Dear Friends,

December 13, 2022

Year-end greetings from our hemisphere to yours! While most of you are experiencing winter season, we have finally crossed the threshold into summer!

The past three and half months have been a whirlwind of activity with many moving parts. After our last update at the end of September, I had the wonderful opportunity of speaking at a biblical worldview conference in Johannesburg hosted by a good friend, Tim Cantrell, and Antioch Bible Church. It was a real treat to share the platform with Voddie Baucham and the other two South African men who spoke. I had been asked to address the issue of climate change in biblical perspective. So, the seminar was entitled:

Climate Change or Climate Con? A Biblical Evaluation

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PZ_50mqK7Gc&t=3085s). The Lord blessed the occasion with a very enthusiastic response from those present.

As a result of that 90-minute seminar, I spent every break and mealtime at the conference answering questions and talking to people about the issue. After the conference, I received a good number of emails asking questions and seeking more information. Other opportunities to speak on the issue have now been afforded as many believers are seeking to make biblical sense of it, trying to figure out the biblical grid needed to think through an issue like climate change. Two weeks ago, I was blessed to do an online two-hour seminar for a good friend and his church in Sydney, Australia, which was very well received. In early January I travel back to Johannesburg to speak to the faculty and staff of the largest private school in Johannesburg on the topic of the Bible and the environment. Though this is not a Christian school, they are still interested in the topic which will provide an opportunity to talk about Christ and the environment which leads into the gospel! Later in January I will be addressing a group of Christian investment bankers and brokers from around the world in an online presentation on the topic.

Another positive outcome of the conference was that two pastors who used to be on the radical fringes of the charismatic movement approached me during a break to speak to me. They left the charismatic movement a couple of years ago and are now seeking to replace bad theology with good theology. To this end, they have asked if I could help them some and advise them as they seek to establish a truly biblical church. In October I met with them in their coastal community, about 70 miles from Cape Town, to encourage them. Debbie and I will be spending a long weekend with them and their 50-person church plant in late January. They are considering taking some of our Berean Bible Institute (BBI) courses online. This will enable us to guide them further as they make the journey from bad to sound theology.

Speaking of BBI, our school year ends this week only to resume in late January. This year we had 6 for-credit students with 12 who audited some of the courses. There is now interest in a couple of outlying areas from a few people interested in joining us online to audit some courses to see what we're all about. This is an exciting development and bodes well for the future. We have not even marketed our courses but by word-of-mouth people are hearing about BBI. One the most pressing challenges now is to figure out how to have some form of mentorship with those who take our courses online and live beyond Cape Town.

On a more personal note, our son, Micaiah, was with us for about six weeks during September and October. It was a treat for us to spend some time with him while he was in-between jobs. At present, Debbie's mom is with us for the Christmas holidays. Because she has early onset dementia, we are trying to minister her and enjoy the time together.

2023 is already shaping up to be as busy and eventful as 2022 has been. Between maintaining a presence in the church, traveling for speaking engagements and meetings, overseeing and teaching in BBI, as well as taking one more exam and beginning a PhD dissertation the new year will be fast paced and labor intensive. Yet, as Paul said in Colossians 1:29 "And for this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me."

There is an added challenge to the new year in that the South African electrical grid is all but fried and hanging by a precarious thread. We are currently experiencing six to eight hours of blackouts every day now. South Africa is facing some very dark (literally and figuratively) and bleak days as they commit energy suicide. Of course, without a constant flow of energy the economy will crumble as businesses struggle to be productive. The government's response to this man-made crisis is renewables. This will only prolong and exacerbate the matter and is tantamount to fixing a leaking dam with silly putty. Thus, we seek to run the race that is set before us with the strength and grace only God can provide!

As we conclude this final update of 2022, Debbie and I both want to thank you all from the depths of our hearts for your prayers and continued support during these tough but exciting days. May you all have Christ filled Christmas season filled with the same truth and grace exemplified by our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Yours for the Master's Use

Mark & Debbie Christopher

Cape Town , South Africa

Prayer & Praise Prompter:

- Praise for the outside speaking opportunities to encourage and minister to others outside of our normal sphere of ministry!
- Praise for the time spent with Micaiah during his six weeks stay.
- Praise for many faithful prayer partners and supporters over the last 28 years!
- Pray for the opportunity to encourage and advise Rudy and Michael in Hermanus as we minister in their church in the near future.
- Pray for the continued growth and establishment of BBI in 2023 as well as our current students.
- Pray for upcoming outside speaking opportunities — that Christ would be glorified, and that the gospel would go forth with clarity and power!
- Pray for South Africa as we continue to commit energy suicide and economic suicide as a consequence. There are several in our church whose businesses are being adversely affected by all this. The specter of civil unrest is very real and an ever-present possibility in this current climate.