

## **Praise and Prayer Update - Christopher's**

February 16, 2010

Dear Friends,

Before time travels any farther down the carriageway of 2010, we (Debbie and I) thought we had better prepare this update on the ministry here Cape Town. 2010 has begun with a bang. We feel much like the runner who arrived at the starting line of the marathon a few minutes late and now has to play catch up. No sooner had we arrived home from a much needed break over Christmas and New Year when I had an out of town ministry obligation to attend while Debbie got the kids settled into a brand new school year.

The past few weeks have been filled with planning and plotting the course for 2010. After nine years of ministry at Living Hope Bible Church, this will be our tenth and final year at the church. After nearly 10 years of ministry at LHBC it is time for us transition out of the ministry here and to nudge the church unto the next steps of autonomy and maturity. To this end we will be grooming Denver Solomon, one of the men in the congregation, to assume the role as pastor of LHBC. Denver has been with us from the start of the church and has matured a great deal through the years. Please pray for Denver, and his wife Gaenor, as they transition into the ministry at LHBC. I know they both entertain a sense of immense joy and trepidation as they prepare to embark on a life of full-time ministry together.

As we look to the future and what we believe God has for us, we are doing so by concentrating on this year of transition by trying to make it as seamless as possible. Beyond that we have already begun planning for a few months of furlough in the first half of 2011. Upon our return to Cape Town later in 2011, we hope to begin a new church plant about 15 miles from our current location. We have a number of interested families already who have expressed a desire for us to begin a Bible study later this year. This will allow us to access the true interest level. Then we can proceed from there.

Janelle and Micaiah have mixed emotions about the upcoming changes to our lives and ministry. Beginning next year Janelle will begin her final 2 years of high school by being home schooled. Micaiah will be home schooled while on furlough, but hopes to attend an all-boys high school that is noted for its academic rigor once we return to Cape Town. Debbie is the ballast we all need to stay even keel so we can steer a steady course this year and beyond.

Mixed in between all of this there is a house to sell, a house to buy, a house to pack, animals to find temporary homes for, a leadership baton to pass on, a furlough to plan, a post-graduate dissertation to write, and a few out of town ministry trips to make. We are anaerobic (winded) already! Thus we need an abundance of God's grace and the fragrance of your prayers to sustain us during this time of prolonged transition. Additionally, LHBC needs much prayer as they face a future without a Yankee at the helm! Though they may struggle initially, I hope and pray they emerge much stronger and more stable as a result.

In addition to the prayer items above, here a few more requests we would invite you to pray for:

- I travel to Johannesburg this Friday (Feb. 19th) for a weekend of ministry - seminars on Saturday and preaching on Sunday.
- Debbie as she seeks to cope with all the details involved in our transition, move, and furlough. She does much of the legwork to help make it all happen.
- For the salvation of lady named Louise, who has been attending church over the last couple of months. She comes from an Anglican background and believes she is saved by virtue of her christening and confirmation. We met with her the other night and shared John 3 that she must be born again!
- For six men who are currently taking a homiletics course from me on Sunday evenings. At least three of the six will preach regularly at LHBC once the transition is complete.
- For LHBC to fully support Denver financially and every other way.
- For the prospects of the new church plant. Specifically that God will prepare the soil before we even begin.

Yours For The Master's Use  
The Christophers  
Mark, Debbie, Janelle, and Micaiah