

The Agonizomai Striver

“And we proclaim Him ... And for this purpose, also I labor,
striving according to His power, which mightily works
within me.”

Colossians 1:28-29

Dear Friends and Ministry Partners,

March 25, 2019

Debbie and I hope this update finds you all well and thriving in the grace of God! We just wanted to quickly update you after our most recent prayer letter a couple of weeks ago, where we asked to pray for the meeting with the Afrikaans Baptist Church we share a facility with at Everglen Baptist. The meeting took place on Wednesday March 13th in the evening. It began with the pastor of the Afrikaans church asking us to forgive him for his caustic and belligerent response to our plans to host a seminary and make some structural changes to better accommodate the seminary. Then we met with his leadership to discuss the way forward. All-n-all, it was a very good meeting and encouraging to see a completely different attitude this time around.

My fellow elders and I decided before hand to jettison the building plans we already had and to present the Afrikaans church with four more options, one of which is a temporary stop-gap measure, so we can begin classes sometime next year. This will give us time to find the best long-term building solution and raise the necessary funding while we begin the seminary. The other church has no problems with our temporary plans and is presently considering which of our long-term options they best like.

This means that it is back to the drawing board, but at least we are reconciled with the other church and are again moving forward with our plans. So, we want to thank all of those who prayed and let you know of this wonderful outcome! Now, please pray for me as I begin moving forward again and make plans for starting the seminary while simultaneously planning a building that will house three classrooms, a library, and an office.

On the matter regarding the recent power cuts by the state-run power utility, we continue to covet your prayers. Last week and the week before were challenging to say the least. At one stage, we had neither water nor power. What we have learned is that the state-run power utility is in huge trouble. They built two new coal-fired power stations over the last 10 years, but due to cronyism and graft, these new power stations cost far more than projected, and they were horribly built because of shoddy workmanship. This is because the Marxist government contracted their chummies to do the work. As a result, South Africa only has 56% of the energy generating capacity it needs to run the country. When Mandela took over the government in 1994, the power utility had 150% of its power generating capacity. It didn't help that due to rabid affirmative action most of the white engineers were fired and paid out packages while being replaced with those lacking the

knowledge and background to run the grid. As a result of this short sightedness, payday has finally arrived.

Last week the government told the public they just needed more time to try and sort out the mess. I guess 26 years of gross negligence and mismanagement wasn't enough. I am not sure where this leaves us. Our concern is that there could be a total blackout, which would mean the grid would be down for months or even years, depending on the situation. One can imagine the civil unrest that would surely accompany such a catastrophe. The only thing we can do is try to prepare for such an event by keeping some non-perishables and water on hand along with taking other precautions. We do not want to go full blown survivalist, but it would be foolish and irresponsible not to do some basic planning. Please pray for us as we make these plans and try to put a strategy in place in the event the grid potentially collapses. On a positive note, there has been an influx of hydroelectricity from Mozambique this week, so no load shedding is expected for the time being.

And on one more matter, just after the penning the last prayer update two weeks ago, the High Court in Pretoria — like the federal circuit court in the US — made a ruling for the LGBT contingent in the Dutch Reformed Church (DRC) stating that the DRC has to allow for practicing homosexuals as ministers and has to perform same-sex marriages. In other words, any “discrimination” against the LGBT in the church will not be tolerated. This court case is based on a ruling the DRC General Synod made in 2015 stating that practicing gays could serve as ministers and DRC ministers could marry same-sex couples in accordance with their conscience. There was such tremendous outcry from the DRC grassroots against the General Synod's ruling that in 2016 the DRC General Synod reversed their previous decision. This reversal is what prompted the court case by the LGBT contingent within the DRC.

As a result of this ruling in favor of LGBT “rights”, now all churches and denominations have their religious liberties imperiled. The LGBT militants are of course emboldened by this decision and have publicly stated they are now going after other churches and denominations. For obvious reasons, I am confident they will leave Islam alone. The one positive in all of this is we are in the process of finding out who is the real deal and who has just been playing plastic Jesus games all along! This coming Sunday evening I will be preaching a message entitled *Homosexuality, The Dutch Reformed Church, and Religious Liberty in South Africa*. I would appreciate your prayers as I try to explain to our people what has happened, how it happened, and what it could mean for the future. This certainly underscores once again the need for a truly biblical seminary like Christ Seminary Cape Town!

Of course, the complete demise of the DRC was preceded by an abandonment of biblical authority and scriptural sufficiency in their seminaries. That dry rot in the DRC basement led to the appropriation of *Sola Cultura* (Culture alone) over *Sola Scriptura* (Scripture alone). Hence, the embracing of everything LGBT. As I am forever warning people, once the LGBT camel gets its head through the front tent flap, all of the tent's occupants had

better be looking for the nearest emergency exit, because it won't be long until the whole beast takes over. That said, it is also true that the LGBT is not the enemy, they are the mission field.

Well, as you can all see, things are truly hopping over here in more ways than one, but God is still firmly ensconced on His throne and His blessed gospel must go forth in passion, power, and precision! The gospel thrives in troubled times like these! Thank you in advance for your prayers as we run the ministerial gauntlet God has given us here Cape Town!

Yours for the Master's Use

Mark & Debbie Christopher

Cape Town, South Africa