

Chris & Lucinda Radebaugh

Missionaries to the Deaf - South Africa



Dear Friends,



For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Ephesians 6:12-13

We have noticed a change in South Africa. This change has been subtle and slow in its growth and is now beginning to reveal itself in all its insidious wickedness. We remember that the first missionaries to Africa called it the “Dark Continent,” not because of the color of the skin but because of the satanic practices by the witch doctors who used fear to keep the people in their ever-tightening grip. Fear has always been one of the tools in the arsenal of the devil and we know his tactics never change. Throughout history we can see how God has brought light to a region and the people experienced the growth and blessing that comes from salvation and a personal relationship with Christ. However, God’s people tend to lose sight of the eternal and are lulled into spiritual sleep by satan (one of his other tactics). There is a departure from Paul’s instruction in Ephesians 5:1-21 (if you are unfamiliar with this passage, please take the time to read it). We are called to be salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16), to let Christ be seen in and through everything that we do. As God’s people become integrated with the world, the need and desire for the things of God in society will begin to fade away.

Perhaps you are wondering what change we are talking about. We are seeing the rise of devil-inspired paganism as people totally reject God, His Word, and anything having to do with “western religion.” We are seeing the rise of old practices through the witch doctors that bring fear, wickedness, and death. A couple of Sunday’s ago, I was talking to one of the young boys in the church. He told me that he and his sister were standing outside of his school waiting for their ride home when a car pulled up, door flung open, and a young girl near them was grabbed and thrown into the car. She screamed, but there was no one to help. He told me that another friend shared with him how that two men came to their home. Only the grandma was there and they said that they were the plumbers and needed to do some repairs. She let them in, only to be attacked and stabbed. The two men cut out her heart and left her bleeding on the floor. The reason? The witch doctors would pay them a huge amount of money for a human heart. Abductions are frequent and young women cannot walk the streets alone for fear of being abducted. Why this rise in satanic influence? The president of the country appears to be corrupt to the core. Before one of his recent meetings with other leaders, he called some of the witch doctors together for a special meeting. He seems invincible, with no way to get him out of power. Satan’s effort to pull South Africa back into paganism is succeeding. What was once a missionary welcoming country has now become antagonistic towards missionaries within their borders. A recent conversation with a friend who was in law enforcement revealed the truth of the matter. He told us that his friend, a detective on the police force, told him that the police can feel a change. The change that they feel is the rise of evil. My friend said, “You must get a gun! But, we are fighting the devil!” In other words, how can we fight an enemy we cannot see? There is only one way and we prefaced this letter with the scripture reference that contains the answer.

The only weapon that wreaks havoc upon the forces of evil is the Word of God: The Sword of the Spirit! There is no weapon upon earth that has the power to effect change as the singular weapon of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The mighty message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ must travel as wind travels the Earth, carried by men and women whose hearts

have been conquered by God in obedience to His command to preach the Gospel to every creature. When we cease to be salt in the society in which we live, we have lost our usefulness to God and men will discard us and trample us underfoot. When we see a change, such as we are seeing worldwide, that seeks to exclude Christians from all walks of society then let not our answer be, “It must be a sign of the times.” We do not know when our Lord will return. We only know that He *will* return. Our answer should be one of repentance towards God and a renewed effort to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ; to put on the armor of the soldier of God (Ephesians 6) and to lift high the Sword of the Spirit, proclaiming the Good News to the ends of the earth! There is no other choice; the Gospel of Jesus Christ is what the world needs.

To that end, we continue to preach the Word, to be instant in season and out of season. Thank the Lord for the salvation decisions on a recent trip through the Western Cape (12 hours driving distance) where our Bible College team was able to present “The Final Judgment” drama and see over 130 professions of faith. As a result, we are sending one of our college graduates to the city of Kimberley for monthly services with the hopes of a new church plant. Lucinda and I are currently in Cape Town to meet with a group of Deaf this Sunday who have been begging us to start a church in their area. Thank the Lord for the work in Zimbabwe through our Deaf missionary, Munya Nyuke, where Deaf men and women are being saved, baptized and taught in the Word of God. Munya is even leading hearing people to faith in Christ! Thank the Lord for the recent salvation decisions and baptisms in our main church and the Pretoria church. In the midst of the war, souls are being won by the saving grace of God! This week we received an email from a friend we met in one of our supporting churches in Florida. She told us that she carries our prayer card in her Bible and often prays for us. She added that she didn’t know why, but the Lord had put us on her heart and she wanted us to know that she is praying for us. My friend, as soldiers have waited for the supplies that would enable them to win the war, so we have waited. We are on one of the fronts of this war and our dear sister’s email brought such encouragement to our hearts! The apostle Paul stated it best in 2 Corinthians 1:11 when he said, “Ye also helping together by prayer for us...” Paul tells us to pray always with all prayer and supplication (Ephesians 6:18). You cannot stand for God without praying always!

Thank you for your monthly support that enables us to live, but if you want us to take ground from the enemy; if you want us to move the front line further into enemy territory, then please do what money can’t do – **PRAY!**

- **Pray** – for God’s protection over ourselves and God’s people in ministry here.
- **Pray** – for wisdom to know the areas in which we need to give our efforts.
- **Pray** – for health – we live in a country where sickness hits all the time because of so many people with HIV/AIDS.
- **Pray** – that we will have the funds necessary to be able to carry on the work. Our Bible College isn’t supported by anyone. For the past 10 years, we’ve tried to do the best we can with what support we have.
- **Pray** – that having done all, we will continue to stand! Salt and Light! Pointing men and women, boys and girls to the only hope – **Jesus Christ!**



For His glory,

Chris & Lucinda Radebaugh
South Africa.

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