

Kingdom Report

Week of 16 February 2019

The Happiest Country in the World

Yes there is a happiest country in the world index. I was surprised to find out which country won three times out of four. I was not surprised when I found out why. A lesson in Kingdom economics.

An article last week in Business Insider caught my attention. In a world of data statistics there is actually an index for happy countries. As a resident of a very unhappy country made up of one of the largest Christian percentage populations in the world I wanted to know, So what made this country so happy?

Now at first you might suspect it must be some Scandinavian country with all its social welfare. No it was not. It is a Latin American country. Yes that region of the world full of drug lords and crime and violence can you believe it? The country that is the happiest in the world for 3 out of the last 4 international surveys (so it is not just a one year anomaly).....is Costa Rica!

Costa Rica? You ask....why Costa Rica? Well the headline in the article was this....

"The president of one of the world's happiest countries says its that way because they got rid of their military."

Frankly I was shocked....got rid of their military...many years ago! I did not know this. So here is what they did. They took that military money and spent it on education, on restoring the environment, on social programs.

President Carlos Quesada said at Davos 2019..."Eight percent of our GDP is invested in education because we don't have to spend it on the army. So our strength is human talent, human wellbeing."

The world average for nations spending on education as percentage of GDP is just 4,8%. But they also spent on revitalizing the environment. 99% of their electricity comes from renewable sources. Said president Alvarado, "We saw in the eighties that the forest coverage was reduced to 20%....we have managed to recover all this and we are back to forest cover of 50%.....our tourism has grown precisely because of this."

Professor Rojas at the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences attributes Costa Ricans high well being to a culture of forming solid social networks of friends, families and neighborhoods. The life expectancy there is 78,5 years...longer than the US. They accomplish all this while using a quarter of the resources used in a typical western nation.

Yes there is a lesson here for those of us believing and working towards the prosperity that the Bible promises those people who follow God's program for healing a nation.

Here in the world we actually have a country who followed the prescription of Isaiah 2: 2-4.....

"And it shall come to pass in the last days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains and shall be exalted above the hills; and nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say Come ye and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord to the house of the God of Jacob and he will teach us his ways and we will walk in his paths; for out of Zion shall go forth the law and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem and he shall judge among the nations and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruninghooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation neither shall they learn war any more."

Costa Rica actually took Isaiah 2:4 seriously. We are not going to learn war anymore and we are not going to invest in an army...we are going to teach useful productive skills for our people and invest in infrastructure, the environment and renewable energy. And they are the happiest people on earth.

Contemplating all this here in South Africa as the nation once again is experiencing daily black outs that will continue for the foreseeable future we are now as a nation in an economic crisis. I am not going to go into all the many reasons for this here in this blog.

What I do want to put forward is this....In an country with the highest percentage of charismatic Pentecostal Christians in the world there are no serious economic or political voices talking about a Bible based "heal the nation" economic restructuring program. Lots of prayer meetings...but little actual action. Lots of Apostolic and Prophetic Leadership conferences planned for this year if I read all the ads in Christian magazines. Lots of promises and preaching on prosperity and miracles. While our national economy slides into debt and darkness.

At the core of this spiritual disconnect from the reality that everyday Christians are experiencing is unbelief. Evangelical leaders just don't believe the Kingdom has come. They do not know or believe that there is such a thing as Biblical guidelines to the economy, to government, to monetary and fiscal policy, to education, to welfare.

My experience has been that if you do try to preach or talk or discuss a new vision of Kingdom the labeling and exclusion starts....Oh watch out he is preaching 'Replacement Theology', Oh dear this is Kingdom Now heresy, this is "Christian Reconstruction, watch out these people are going to try and make heaven on earth... I had this experience again two weeks ago at minister's fellowship meeting...a good brother starts on how exciting about Israel returning to the land and how this means Jesus is returning any moment....all proceeded by, 'Well bro. Orlando is not going to agree with this...."

And that is the core of the problem....we can do nothing until Jesus returns and sets up a new Jewish kingdom, you see because Isaiah says the law is then going out from Jerusalem where King Jesus will say to the nations....you must study war no more, you must disband your armies and concentrate on food production.

So we sit and wait for Jesus to return to Jerusalem so He can then give orders to the nations. We have nothing to say to the crumbling nations. We must wait for Jesus and Israel.

Except Costa Rica didn't get that part of the message. They didn't wait for Jesus to appear in Jerusalem to tell them to turn their swords into plowshares. They just went ahead in any case and did what the Bible says they must do....disband the army and its wasteful expenditure. And for that they got what the Lord promised....a happy nation, long life, and social harmony. Are they perfect...of course not. But they are doing what they can to do what scripture says to do.

On May 8th South Africa goes to the polls to vote. We Christian majority will once again get the government we deserve...because we will vote them in again. A government that is openly and in all the media proven to be corrupt and incompetent from top to bottom. A government that will kill unborn babies but refuse to execute murderers. A government that thinks it is their job to run airlines, run electric utilities, run education, hospitals, mines, farms, broadcasting, arms manufacturing, welfare, housing and on and on. All run incompetently and at a huge loss by people who are not qualified to operate these entities but the tax payers must incessantly year after year pay for the losses.

God has a program for healing the nations. It is clearly outlined in scripture from the Israel template. I will keep that vision alive with more writing and more teaching materials. But don't expect to see any of it in Christian bookstores....I have already been told my theology is not acceptable. So I will just make it free for download. Thank the Lord for internet and social media!

However I know there is no room in the church for this message at this time. There certainly is not room in the political space for this message. So we must now in the years ahead endure what Isaiah 2 4 says "**....he will judge among the nations and rebuke many people....**" until they listen to the Lord, until they give up and are willing to say to the Lord...."teach us your ways"....the Lord will continue to judge and rebuke South Africa....by giving us the government we ask for.

Which will happen in South Africa when the Christians in our nation finally get enough of "money for nothing prosperity" preaching, when the political parties have all lost all credibility with voters, when Christian leaders get off their self-important "Leadership Conferences" and actually lead our nation into the Kingdom of God.

Until then the darkness of increasing power outages, increasing catastrophic unpayable national debt accumulation from government disasters, increasing crime from unemployment, lack of service delivery, increasing strikes and social unrest....all lead us to finally doing it God's way.