

Kingdom Report

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Week of 4 May 2024

Christianity's Global Centre Shifted to Africa

The African church will define the Ekklesia of the 21st Century that will heal the nations. And the church in South Africa has a leading role in shaping how we create the new Ekklesia.

Ever since I discovered decades ago that the place on planet earth described by Isaiah 18 and Zephaniah 3:10 as "beyond the rivers of Ethiopia" is Africa and specifically Southern Africa my views on the church and eschatology drastically changed. I got out of "end times" and how and when the Rapture, Armageddon, One World Government, Antichrist etc.

I went on an exploratory mission to find out what are the implications from these scriptures of "raise an ensign" over Southern Africa and what "present brought to the Lord" is going to be out of Southern Africa. And why are the nations of the world told to see what happens in Southern Africa when the Lord raises His "ensign" there.

I am busy now with the 4th rewrite of my book "Southern Africa's Prophetic Destiny" and hopefully the last before I go to print. Reason? The world statistics and trends are so fascinating that every year that goes by it becomes more clearer to me the awesome future that God has for Southern Africa in His Kingdom prophetic timeline.

I want to just to give you a quick insight on 4 mega trends that I am exploring in the re-write that throw new light for me on the critical role the church in Southern Africa must now assume which leads me to prove that the church of Southern Africa will define the Ekklesia of the 21st Century whose mission is to heal the nations.

- 1) Africa is now and more so in the future the centre of Global Christianity.
- 2) By the end of the present decade and moving into the 2030's the western church's strongest contingent being evangelicals and their narrative and vision of "end times" and all that goes with it will be dying out with the demise of the "boomer generation" and fading "signs of the times".
- 3) By the end of the decade and going into the 2030's the most successful economies and nations of the past decades will all be in terminal economic and political disintegration. Cause: Cultural degeneration, demographic collapse, debt implosion.
- 4) Southern Africa will by the end of the decade and before other parts of the world have entered into an economic and political wasteland of failed economics and political theories. But with the only binding force left in our nations being their overwhelming Christian majority populations.....a new vision and a new Ekklesia will emerge with a long term plan and vision to heal the broken nations and manifest the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

End Result: Because of the untapped and underdeveloped resources of Southern Africa unmatched by any other region of the world and the Spirit filled God anointed entrepreneurial vision of new generation of God's warriors we will design new economic and political systems, design new people friendly cities, find the right balance between ecology and civilization that preserves God's beautiful ecosphere as well and provide a renewable long centuries lasting sustainable civilization. A civilization with Jesus as Lord.

That is why Isaiah 18 says the world will watch this miracle transformation and the present to be brought to the Lord in Zephaniah 3:10 is the fulfillment of Psalm 2:6-8 *"I have set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree, Thou are my Son this day I have begotten thee. Ask of me and I shall give thee the heathen for thy inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy inheritance"*

What is the "gift" and "present" of these two scriptures that are to be presented to the Lord by the people beyond the rivers of Ethiopia? It is the inheritance that Jesus died for which are the "heathen" in the "uttermost part of the earth"...uttermost from Israel and beyond the rivers of Ethiopia are the lands of Southern Africa and the heathen non-Jews are we the people of Africa the Church centre of the 21st Century.

1) Africa the Centre of Global Christianity

Dr. Gina Zurlo, an American sociologist and scholar of history of mission and world Christianity, and co-director of the Centre for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary had the following to say. She highlighted Africa as the region emerging as a focal point of the Global Church. Reviewing demographic shifts over the past 150 years, she pointed to the surprising statistic that today 44% of Protestant Christians reside in Africa.

Zurlo noted that the trends offer some insights to where the next centre of Christianity will be located. "Wherever Christianity spread, and in the 20th century, the Pentecostal charismatic movement spread with it, it appears that the future of global Christianity seems to be Pentecostal."

As Christianity's geographical distribution continues to change, Africa and Asia witness an increase in Christian populations, while Europe and North America experience declines. Within these regions, the proliferation of Pentecostal and Charismatic movements adds to the religious diversity.

According to the latest survey of global Christianity, the gradual but significant shift has become evident when looking at the past century. In 1900, a vast majority of 82% of Christians hailed from the Global North, in stark contrast with the remaining 18% from the Global South, which is also referred to as the Majority World, including populous regions such as Asia, Africa and Latin America. Fast forward to the present, and the demographics have dramatically reversed, with only 33% of Christians in the Global North and 67% in the Global South.

Current projections point to further shifts in the same direction and suggest that by 2050, an overwhelming majority of 77% of Christians will hail from the Global

South. In addition four fifths of all evangelicals worldwide are people of colour," Zurlo observed.

The Pentecostal Charismatic Movement, originating in the early 20th century, has become a hallmark of Global South faith, encompassing diverse manifestations within classical Pentecostalism, the Catholic Charismatic Movement, and other charismatic movements.

The Center for the Study of Global Christianity reported that in 2018, Africa had more Christians than any other continent (631 million) for the first time, while in 1900 there were 9.6m Christians, by the year 2000 there were 384m.

Perhaps the most important statistic is that the growth is not just people labelling themselves Christian – there is a huge difference in the level of commitment, too. A 2018 study by Pew Research Center found that Africans are among the most committed Christians in the world (the least being European). Africans pray more frequently, attend religious services more regularly and consider religion more important in their lives than Christians elsewhere. "At least four out of five Christians in Nigeria, Liberia, Senegal, Cameroon and Chad pray every day, the survey found... in every African country surveyed, more than 60% of Christians say they attend church at least weekly," Pew's report said. Jesus loves Africa! Africa loves Jesus!

2) The Trend of a Collapsing End Times Narrative

When I highlighted last week the biggest Pentecostal Church in the biggest Pentecostal denomination had a male stripper for an annual Men's Convention you see a sign here. The classic Pentecostal movement has come to the end of a strategic cul-de-sac. How do we keep the people coming. What can we offer people who have been fed a long term diet of "What can Jesus do for me".

The end result is religious meetings as entertainment.

Not one of the classic end time signs have come to pass. And the decades just keep going by. What do we in Africa tell our 700 million and growing Church? The Antichrist is coming out of Europe with a One World Government and a One World Religion but don't worry we will be Raptured before that. And Russia and China are our enemies because they will invade Israel in Armageddon, yes the same Russia that declares itself to be a Christian Orthodox nation and China who has been building infrastructure and trade all over Africa.?

Needless to say I can go on and on about this. My sincere advice to leaders in Africa: Disconnect from American theology. God has a different vision and destiny for our Church in Africa. And yes keep your eye on Israel because when it collapses the American church will be in total confusion and looking for a new vision of the future of the Kingdom of God. And Africa will be the vision leader for the church.

The "end time" theology and strategy is totally incompatible with Kingdom theology and healing the nations. It is short term thinking not long term Kingdom dominion.

3) The Collapsing World Trend

I won't go into detail here in this limited blog. But let me advise you what I am looking at. I am looking at long term trends beyond 2030. All point to a collapsing world order as we know it.

- Firstly I reject the "end times" theology of "One World Government" is coming as per Antichrist ruling the world. I refer to my writings on the historical Antichrist prophecies already fulfilled. Instead keep to the simple vision of Daniel's dream interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. The global trend is the world is fractioning. We are entering the multi-polar world reality.

- I am watching the financial trends of world economies. It is endless debt piling on endless debt. That is because the international financial system is based on the Fractional Reserve banking system whereby money creation is done through debt creation. Increasing money supply can only come through increasing debt creation. There is never enough money to pay the existing debt so more debt must be created to pay past interest and capital. It is an international Ponzi scheme. America is borrowing \$1 trillion every 100 days. The crash is coming.

- I am watching the demographic time bomb. No babies. No families. Just growing corporations and growing government bureaucracies. All need workers, consumers and tax payers to keep their growth going. By the 2030's the relaxation will be everywhere in the industrial world....we are finished. We cannot stop the demographic collapse. There is no long term future.

- The resource and cultural collapse. The resources needed to sustain endless growth is at an end. Culturally the younger generation don't give a damn. They don't want the responsibility of family or children and are happy with a life of consumerism and maximizing pleasure, avoiding pain and discipline.

4) The Economic and Political Collapse of Southern Africa.

I really cry over the collapse of the social, political and economic order of Southern Africa which by the end of the decade should be complete. It is tragic for so many to suffer so much when we are such a richly endowed region of the world.

But the point must be reached when all faith in the "radical economic transformation" dream becomes a distant nightmare. China had to endure the nightmare of the "great leap forward" of their Maoist "cultural revolution" to come to Deng Xiaoping and the start of sanity in 1978. Russia had to endure 70 years of Communist "peoples" revolution to get to 2000 and back to its cultural roots of an Orthodox Christian Civilization.

And when we get to the end of people's faith in government and, political messiah's and "radical economic transformation" we the people of God must be ready for the Kingdom Revolution. And inspire a new generation with the vision of a Christian Civilization.

We are going to have to form new close support networks in our communities to support one another while the economic storm rages over the nation in the coming years. During this time we are going to learn local government, local self-sufficiency, local answers to local problems.

We are also going to learn to create new institutions as government and civil society institutions collapse or become increasingly irrelevant.

This will require us to redefine what the scripture means when it says "forsake not the gathering of yourselves." We are going to discover Christian gatherings beyond Sunday morning meetings. We are going to discover the reality and need of God's command to Israel in Exodus 18:21

"Moreover you shall provide out of all the people able men (and women) such as fear God men of truth that hate covetousness and place them to be rulers of thousands and rulers of hundreds and rulers of fifties and rulers of tens."

Our nation and people are being looted by the covetousness of rulers in the government and corporate sector. We are going to create new businesses and civic organizations comprising of new Ekklesia gatherings of thousands and hundreds and fifties and tens....all led by God fearing anointed men and women who are not in it for the money or the glory bit for the Lord and His Kingdom.

The incredible opportunity that we have of inheriting an undeveloped land from where international corporations have divested, the upper millionaires have emigrated and the corrupt government has destroyed is this:

We can start new. No competition. New industries to start. New cities to design. New banks and financial institutions to start, new schools to be built. We get to import the newest technology from best practices overseas. We can design new education teaching systems using the best of the new AI. We can design liveable communities where we can work, live and shop in walkable communities.

We have all the minerals we need for our own new industrial revolution. We have 30 billion barrels of already discovered oil in the Orange River basin off the West Coast. We have ample fish in the sea and uranium and thorium for a hundred thousand years of nuclear energy. We have grain and fruit and livestock

And our corrupt government scared away all the overseas corporations who wanted to exploit all those riches for their own offshore tax free pockets.

When we design and implement a new Southern Africa that is operated for generational sustainable family growth and prosperity to the praise of our lord Jesus then a collapsing world system will take note at the Ensign of the Lord raised over Southern Africa and ask "Teach us your ways".

For your encouragement and perspective I thought I would give you a map of the size and boundaries of the first part of the Kingdom Promised Land "beyond the rivers of Ethiopia" with more to be added...

