



South Africa

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Dear friends at Leagueville Baptist Church,

"How doth the city sit solitary, that was full of people! How is she become as a widow! She that was great among the nations, and princess among the provinces, how is she become tributary!" This passage in Lamentations 1:1 reflects the grief of Jeremiah over the tragic fall of Jerusalem/Judah. After the death of Saul and Jonathan, David posed the exclamation, "How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle!" It is a simple fact that cities and nations do fall. We have been shielded from it (for the most part) here in America. BUT, now we are seeing it at home, and all around the world, economies and political structures being reshaped. It is threatening us because we have, as a nation, chosen to depart from God. It seems we are struggling to keep our heads above the turbulent waters of the world.

We are told, "Let him that thinketh he standeth, take heed lest he fall." Our beloved America is very different from the place my family moved away from back in 1991. While there are great disturbances over the things happening in our day, there is still a great core of Bible believing people who take God's way very seriously. Sadly, most of the world does not have this. While they are seeking for some foothold in an upheaval of oceanic proportions, we are struggling in what may comparatively be termed a tidal pool of upheaval.

Our country's departure from the ways of the LORD began several decades ago. As we have been travelling around the USA for a few months now, we have witnessed reasons to be sad and discouraged. Yet as far as churches are concerned, we are seeing a stand being maintained for the LORD. We are so blessed to know and be friends with so many great, great churches and communities of brethren.

We recently returned to our home church after being on the road for about 5 or 6 weeks. Our previous reporting tour took 10 weeks. Though we feel a bit weary, we are reminded to keep our eyes on God and look to Him for the strength He gives. This recent tour has taken us through Minnesota and Iowa, to Missouri, then Kentucky, New York, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Michigan. We have been more blessed than we could explain. Each church has added great memories, and the fellowship we have enjoyed with them will not be forgotten.

It is amazing when we drive across the country to see all the wealth we have enjoyed in this land. We are convicted it was not simply by accident or because it is a country overflowing with natural resources. God has blessed this country. Sadly, we have seen laws come into play which guide this country away from biblical values, and as evil tries to take over, we find ourselves stressed and frustrated. This is still a wealthy land, and even the poorest of this great country live far better than the average person in the world. Some statistics from a few years ago are as follows:

"Over three billion people" . . . live on less than \$2.50/day. "More than 80% of the population lives on less than \$10 USD per day." We look at our nation and we can see God gave us not just resources but common sense, discipline, a spirit of adventure and entrepreneurial risk taking. We have been blessed. These are by-products of a people who have chosen to follow God.