

The Kingdom of God

An apostolic-prophetic testimony to encourage, strengthen and strategically direct God's Ekklesia in South Africa, Africa and the rest of the world

Introductory

*"Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; love and faithfulness go before You."*¹

As a Council of Servant-Leaders from all walks of life and different backgrounds, we stand here in all humility, but also with a certainty, as representatives and ambassadors of a King and a Kingdom not of this world but in this world.

We believe He taught us to pray for South Africa and Africa,

"Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors.

*And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."*²

We believe our mandate is to be His voice proclaiming the coming of the Kingdom in South Africa, but also in the rest of Africa, and the rest of the world.

Our focus is especially on South Africa, because the citizens of this country, after more than three centuries of living and journeying together, confess and honour this King and His Governance as Lord and God in the Preamble of the Constitution of South Africa in the following way:

"We, the people of South Africa,

Recognise the injustices of our past;

Honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land;

Respect those who have worked to build and develop our country; and

¹ Ps. 89:14 (from the ESV)

² All quotations from the Bible are from the NKJ-Translation, except when indicated that it is from another translation. Matt. 6:9-13

Believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity.

We therefore, through our freely elected representatives, adopt this Constitution as the supreme law of the Republic so as to

- Heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights;
- Lay the foundations for a democratic and open society in which government is based on the will of the people and every citizen is equally protected by law;
- Improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person; and
- Build a united and democratic South Africa able to take its rightful place as a sovereign state in the family of nations.

May God protect our people.

Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika. Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso.

God seën Suid-Afrika. God bless South Africa.

Mudzimu fhatutshedza Afurika. Hosi katekisa Afrika.”³

Therefore, our hearts’ desire is to be a voice of this God in the here and now.

We only want to say what we believe He said we should say as ambassadors of His Kingdom coming.

The Kingdom of God is our primary focus

“... Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”⁴

As believing followers of the King, we have a passion for the Kingdom of Heaven coming to earth and are looking at how to complete the plans and the agenda that God has for the Kingdom of God.⁵

The Kingdom of God is in many areas of the world an unknown entity, an unknown goal, and an unknown message.

It seems that people have not really heard about the Gospel of the Kingdom. They heard all about church, and what we can call the gospel of the church. But many are surprised to hear that Jesus never spoke about a gospel of the church coming or growing but rather about the Kingdom of God coming and growing here on earth.

³ <https://www.gov.za/documents/constitution-republic-south-africa-1996-preamble>

⁴ Matt. 6:33

⁵ Most New Testament commentaries agree that the four terms, “Kingdom of God”, “Kingdom”, “Kingdom of heaven” and “Kingdom of Jesus” in the New Testament used in similar contexts, depict the same meaning. The word in the Greek that we’ve translated with “kingdom”, is the same, *basileia*. In the Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament based on the Semantic Domains, Vol 1, of JP Louw and EA Nida, “*basileia*” depicts “an area of district ruled by a king”, or “kingdom”. “Kingdom of heaven” indicates “the abode of God” or “where God lives” or “from where God governs”.

As was revealed in Heb. 1:1,2:

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by [His] Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds”

Over a period of three years, during His public ministry here on earth, we heard and saw Jesus, the Son of God, as the new Anointed King, proclaiming, illustrating, teaching, and ministering the reality of the Kingdom of Heaven, coming (again) to earth. Just as was prophesied by the prophets and the rest of the Old Testament Scriptures.

From the very beginning of His ministry here on earth, we heard Jesus saying:

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”⁶

Luke confirmed this and helps us understand that everything Jesus did and taught, from the very beginning to the very end of His public ministry, was all about this Kingdom of God, the Kingdom of Heaven, coming to earth.

During the last forty days, while He was revealing Himself as the Risen King, we read in Acts 1:1-3.

“The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.”

Jesus even said that this will be the message that He wants his followers to talk about, and witness about to all the world.

But because only the Spirit of God could convince and reveal the truth about Jesus, the Anointed, being the Saviour and new King, what God’s people needed was to be anointed with the Spirit of God in and on them.

“Then He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.’”⁷

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”⁸

For this reason, we hear the Paul proclaiming to the Roman King Agrippa, that King Jesus appeared to him, telling him ...

⁶ Matt. 4:17

⁷ Luk. 24:46-49

⁸ Acts 1:8

“But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.

I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.

Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.”⁹

All around the world, among the followers of King Jesus, this conversation about the Kingdom of God is gathering momentum. Also, among us as a council of Servant-Leaders, an open, positive conversation is going on about what it should look like when the Kingdom of Heaven come to earth.

What shall it look like and how will it change everything that is going on in this country and the rest of Africa?

The Kingdom of God is ...

But, let us get back to basics and try and explain what we are talking about.

Now, let us define, for the time being, what we believe the term “Kingdom of God” means.

It means, the place where God is King over His people.

King = His is the King

Dom = We are the Dom.

We can describe the Kingdom as the domain where the reign of God is welcomed and where His rule is uncontested. People love Him and they want Him to be their King.

Let us say it again: The Kingdom of God is the welcomed, uncontested rule of God.

There can be no contest. No compromise. No rebelling against it. It is the place where God is in command. It is His House. He is the Lord of this House. Where He makes the rules and you ship in or you ship out. If you rebel against those rules, like the economic rules of the Kingdom, you will find yourself not going far in the Kingdom of God. You may go far in Christianity, but not in the Kingdom of God.

Our goal as a council of Servant-Leaders, was to open up a conversation about what this means practically in our country, in every sector and area of Life.

⁹ Acts 26:16-20

We believe our mandate and message is to voice to government and every individual in this country, and even the rest of Africa, what we've been discovering, embracing and fleshing out about the Kingdom of God in our own lives, in different areas, in our work, in our economy, in our governance, etc.

Of course, this will be a journey for all of us. It will be in part, discovering the Kingdom of God around us as we stumble into it or stumble over it. Like a treasure in the field, as Jesus described it in one of His parables.

Some of us will discover it, but keep quiet about it for a while, till we can buy that field, even if it means selling everything you have to embrace it.

Yes, and sometimes, part of this story about the Kingdom is a love story about your intimate relationship with the King, that is part private and precious to you. Because of that, we have decided among us, not to try and broadcast those personal experiences. But allow also other people to have other stories and other discoveries, and to recognise it is the same cake! It is the same Kingdom!

This also means, recognising the fact that is not so important where we all came from and even what the detail is of what we believe, but it is of more importance where we all go to.

Because God is busy raising up the Kingdom of God.

One of the most striking passages in the Bible about the Kingdom of God, is Daniel 2.

Where you find a prophetic picture of this statue that describes human empires.

The first readers of this prophecy found the Persian, Babylonian, Greek, and Roman Empire described over there.

And it ends up with brittle clay mixed with iron.

You will also find that stone, cut out, but something not human (so, divinely!). Because God was (and is) totally in charge!

Nothing there is responding to any human activity!

And where that stone, representing Christ, strikes the most vulnerable place of that whole statue, its brittle toes, what followed was a lot of momentum.

If you read this passage, you will see and hear these strong sounds and movements. You will hear the word, "strike", which is not just something gentle and soft! No, it depicts a very violent act! And then you will hear of how this stone "crushes" this image and bringing to an end an entire kingdom. That is a strong statement!

Some may even want to water it down, but God is saying: This is what the Kingdom of God will do! It will break things to pieces! It can happen in slow motion, but, I believe, then it can also happen very fast!

Then there is this second movement happening: When this stone became a mountain that filled the whole earth!

Can you believe, a stone becoming a mountain! How can a stone grow into a mountain?

The answer is by adding other stones that are made out of the same core, the same stuff that the stone is!

That is exactly the idea of 1 Pet 2:5.

God is interested in taking living stones and building it into His spiritual house. Which is the Kingdom, the House of God.

That is what Jesus and His Father both are working on.

In Joh. 14: 1, King Jesus said: I am going to build a place for you in My Father's House.

God is inviting you and me to be part of that building.

And that building is not some or other church or ministry. King Jesus said that He is building His Father's house. And you are either with Him or against Him!

This brings us back again to the fact that what God is building, is large... It is a mountain! And it is bigger than a Kilimanjaro or a Mount Everest! It is huge. It fills the entire earth!

In Is. 9 it says, the increase of His government has no end! It means, it is ongoing! It keeps going ... till it reached its goal!

What is at the core of the coming of the Kingdom?

The Good News of the coming of the Kingdom in Jesus Christ is proclaimed with different word-pictures as ...

Salvation – “... turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.”¹⁰

Restoration, Reconciliation – “that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”¹¹

Re-creation – “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”¹²

Rebirth – “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’

Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?’

¹⁰ Acts 26:18

¹¹ 2 Cor. 5:19

¹² 2 Cor. 5:17

Jesus answered, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.'"¹³

Put into a position of righteousness – "... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."¹⁴

For Jesus, the Anointed, to be revealed as the (new) King, and that in and through Him, the Kingdom of Heaven came to earth, He had to fulfil the prophecies, as in Gen. 3:15; Isa. 53; Isa. 61.

A very important passage for a better understanding of the coming of the Kingdom is 1 Cor. 15.

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, while looking back and thinking about what Jesus did and taught, and what God the Father was busy with now that King Jesus was on the Throne as the new King of this Kingdom, Paul wrote in 51-52 AD, in his first letter to the Corinthians, in 1 Cor. 15:12-28:

"Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen.

And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.

Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up—if in fact the dead do not rise.

For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen.

And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!

Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.

If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.

But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

¹³ Joh. 3:3-8

¹⁴ Rom. 3:23-26

Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.

The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

For 'HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS UNDER HIS FEET.' But when He says 'all things are put under Him,' it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted.

Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all."

When, again writing about all of this under the inspiration of the Spirit, in 57 AD, Paul used the term "new creation" to try and explain what is happening on earth when the Kingdom of God, or the Kingdom of Heaven, is coming.

This is what he wrote in the well-known 2 Cor. 5:14-21:

"For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

For that reason, we see ourselves as Ambassadors of this new Kingdom here on earth, representing, witnessing and allowing the King of this Kingdom to reveal His glory everywhere and to everyone He send us.

As Jesus Himself did, prophesying in the words of Isaiah 61:1-4:

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,

To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."

And they shall rebuild the old ruins, They shall raise up the former desolations, And they shall repair the ruined cities, The desolations of many generations.

People are discovering all over the world that our King and Lord, Jesus Christ, was not the founder of what we nowadays call Christianity. Jesus is maybe not even a "Christian" as the most people understand it! Because the most people think that mean you belong to some or other church somewhere.

So, our mandate and message as ambassadors of the Kingdom is not that of trying to make people Christians!

According to our King, our mandate and our message is the Kingdom, His Kingdom, coming to earth.

The Ekklesia proclaiming the message of the coming of the Kingdom

Jesus spoke a hundred times of this Kingdom. But only twice about the Ekklesia.

The moment you understood that the Ekklesia was the people who were saved, reconciled, restored, reborn, made righteous with God, who have accepted in faith and started following in obedience the new Risen King, Jesus Christ, as Saviour and Lord, you understand the words of Jesus when He spoke about the Ekklesia.

"He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?'

Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'

Jesus answered and said to him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."¹⁵

What Jesus revealed here about the Ekklesia is that He is positioning the Ekklesia literally "on the voorstoep of Hell", at the Gates of Hell, with the message of the Kingdom of Heaven, as the "keys of the kingdom of heaven" which can bound and loose things here on earth, but also in the spiritual,

¹⁵ Matt. 16:15-19

invisible world where Hell and its forces are resisting the reality of the coming of the kingdom of heaven.

When Scriptures were translated from the original languages, Hebrew and Greek, the word, Ekklesia was, we believe, wrongly translated with “church” in English, or “kirche” in German.

So, for a correct understanding of the role and mandate of the Ekklesia in the coming of the Kingdom, we need to define the meaning of the word, Ekklesia, as it was understood in the Greek.

This word, Ekklesia, meant something totally different than the word “church” as we have translated it into the English language.

The word “church” is interpreted by most people as this religious building where religious things are happening.

The word EKKLESIA is a Greek term describing ...

- a political community, like a city parliament
- a democratic city-state
- All the citizens above 20 years of age that participate in the city parliament
- The Romans in the Roman Empire used the word EKKLESIA to describe those sitting around the Caesar who are listening to what he is saying and even act as a council around him.
- The other way this word was used was when the Romans are sending out an advance military group to capture another area, they would send a Roman governor and a group of Roman citizens that reflected and represented from all walks of life what being a Roman citizen was all about and what Life in the Roman empire was like, in the newly captured province. That group was called an Ekklesia or spear-heading group to colonize a new province.

So, when Jesus used the word EKKLESIA, people knew, A-Ha, this was a group that was part of Heaven colonizing the earth. This was not about people gathering in some religion building, like the buildings we know, with a steeple, where a Sunday service is held.

We believe we see this movement of God moving and building His Kingdom, all over the world, but also here among us in South Africa, and in Africa.

We want to mention four developments we see happening at the moment:

1. We see an imploding interest in Christianity all over the world. People are no longer interested in Christianity! They have been in church and in Christianity and they know what is happening there.
2. We see people leaving the church as we know it. Not because they don't believe. No, many are leaving church in search of God. They are saying, Church No, God, Yes! In the USA they are calling them DONE'RS, we are done with church! Statistics are telling us that in some countries more than 50% of believers are following Christ outside the typical traditional church systems! And this is happening ... even if you are not understanding it, or not even agreeing with it! We believe that we need not be threatened by it! Because what if... God is behind this???? What if God is rescuing people from religion in this way?

3. We are seeing an imploding of a lot of Christian leaders. They just can't handle the tension anymore because of what is happening in this system we are calling church! They are preaching their hearts out, but the people are keep running and moving out of the system! Because the people are feeling what they see in the church system is not reflecting a Kingdom-based Ekklesia at all! And to them our question is: What if God is calling you out too? What if God wants to make you aware of the fact that all this hard work you are doing in this system is so hard just because it is hard word to keep man's work and a system build by man going! And being the man at the top is a very lonely place to be and will lead eventually to total burnout! Know this, this is not from God! This is not God's picture of the EKKLESIA! This is not what the coming of the Kingdom looks like! God is calling us back to the original blueprint!!
4. There is a growing interest in God and the things of God outside the church as we know it! People are looking for God in all sorts of places but not in church as we know it! People are looking for values in all places and sectors, but they do not go or come to church to try and find it or try and find definitions of it. Yes, even the business world is longing to hear the voice of God speaking to them in the midst of their challenges and stresses! But the positive thing is ... people are searching! They are searching for something far more than a church to go to ... They have a deep hunger a homesickness ... for a country they have never been too.

We as a Council of Servant-Leaders believe that country is the same country that we read about in the book, Hebrews, that Abraham was looking for...

A city whose architect is God!

A lot of people are finding that God is speaking to them about the City of God, or the Mountain of God, or Zion!

Not a church or a church building ... Because it is much too small ... God is depicting the Kingdom of God to be like a Heavenly City coming to Earth in Revelation 21!

We are moving to the future! To the finishing line! And to the Ekklesia of the future ... And sorry, it is not going to look like anything we have seen up to now!

No, to see something of what this will look like, you need to go back to the Beginning, in the book, Acts, in the Bible.

There you will find the principles of what this will look like. There you will find the dynamics and DNA of what it will be like.

Wow, yes, when the Kingdom of Heaven come to earth, it will be as if a Heavenly City come to earth!

Can you imagine what it will be like when what is reality in Heaven, come to Earth!

When we start seeing something of this reality, it will start reflecting in our eyes and grip our heart. It will make us cry in amazement.

Because the Kingdom of God is not something you can have... It is something that has you!!

And if it has you, you will become consume with it! Like King Jesus was consumed by it! About the Father's House!

In Acts 15, 16 and 17, the Spirit of God is revealing that when the Kingdom of God come, it will be like ... God is building, or rather rebuilding, the fallen tabernacle of David! And God is restoring its foundations. So that people will again see the Kurios, the King of kings.

This means that King Jesus can't just be another god between other gods that you are serving in your life! When you choose Him, you've chosen Him to be the King above all kings. You are choosing Him to have the final say about everything and in everything!

And in this process God is restoring back the kingship.

Because, to love and serve Him, you love and serve Him above everything else!

Because He asked you to do that ... to see what is really going on in your heart. To see if He is really the King above all kings in your heart!

Worshipping Him is extremely costly! It is bringing that bull or sheep as a farmer, and it is costing you! It is like offering your car or your tractor!

What God is saying is that He is rebuilding the ruins and foundations ... Yes, He is coming back to those cornerstones the builders of the temple have rejected along the line.

New wine and new wineskins

In His conversation with Nicodemus, a spiritual leader, Jesus found it necessary to explain that the only way someone can experience the miracle of the Kingdom of God coming in their own lives, is by experiencing a new birth.¹⁶

In Acts 2:36 to 39, Peter explain this new birth as a process happening usually in a day, and with the essential elements of repentance of sin, accepting in faith of Jesus Christ as King and Saviour, baptism in water and baptism in the Spirit.

The moment the Spirit of God ministers truth (which is in essence nothing else than just pure Scripture truth, as in Ezek. 36:26,27), people, like Nicodemus and the crowd in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost, experience a paradigm shift, which will include a new way of thinking and looking at yourself, but also what it mean to be a member of the Ekklesia.

Jesus called these truths "new wine", because it really is old Biblical truths that God the Spirit opened up and revealed to you in a new way.

The moment when you see and re-discover what was really meant by it, it totally changes everything. It will lead to a total paradigm shift, which Jesus called "new wineskins". Nothing after that, will ever be the same.

We believe, for the Ekklesia, to rediscover their role and mandate in the Kingdom, a paradigm shift is essential.

¹⁶ See Joh. 3:3-18

This will lead to a re-discovery of what it mean to be a member of the Ekklesia, and of our identity as a member of the Ekklesia and the Body of King Jesus on earth, but also where we will discover (maybe to our surprise) the Ekklesia.

Rediscovering the Ekklesia in its root-forms, in houses, businesses, government offices, schools, music bands, TV-teams, will help us understand what Wolfgang Simson spoke about in his book, about Houses that change the world.¹⁷

He explained the excitement discovering that the moment you stop bringing people to a typical church setting with denomination-type church structures, the Ekklesia start happening among the people, and usually outside these church structures.

That will also cause a radical turnaround when, suddenly, the Ekklesia becoming viral and multiplying and not just growing. And in very interesting places, like on farms, in businesses, and on the campuses of universities and schools.

We will also see a fast accelerating happening, even to the extent of what we would call revival or what is nowadays call God movements.

In their book, THE KINGDOM UNLEASHED, Jerry Trousdale and Glenn Sunshine, wrote about 562 of these God movements going on in the world at the moment, and which are already going on for over 4 generations in those communities.¹⁸

We believe that what we are seeing and experiencing happening in South Africa the last few years, will in ten years or so, also be called one of these God movements, when it start happening in the fourth generation, what now is seen among the kids, the parents and the grand parents of ordinary mainly Afrikaans, English and Zulu speaking groups.

We believe this is what we are seeing and hearing about from people like Erlo Stegan working in Zulu communities in Kwa-Zulu Natal, and what is experiencing in the Mighty Men and Women movement all across the country.

God is changing our picture of the Ekklesia and He is helping us to see the disadvantages of doing church the typical way we did for many years.

Most of the churches in the world is what we would call 5-P churches. Because we will always find these 5 P's over there. They all have a Pastor, a Parking Lot, Pews, Programmes, and they have Problems!

The classical go-to-church-on-Sunday is where you go to a choreographed religious meeting on a Sunday at a specific hour, usually in some sort of religious building of some sort build especially for this purpose, doing a religious meeting in some pre-set religious way, with people who associate and even joined this group, calling themselves Church, believing very specific things, usually distinguishing them from other groups who also call themselves church, believing that they are the right church.

This is the church system most of us grew up with.

¹⁷ Houses that change the World. Wolfgang Simson. 1998

¹⁸ The Kingdom Unleashed. Jerry Trousdale & Glenn Sunshine. 2018.DMM Library, Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

When God change our picture and paradigm from this way of doing church, to the Biblical Ekklesia, who meet in houses and are usually done outside of these so-called churches, this is a quantum leap for most of us.

Millions of followers of Christ from all over the world are experiencing this the last few years.

If Operation World say that about 10 percent of the world's population can really be described as born-again followers of Christ, while about a third of the world's population are members of one or other church, where does that leave us?

2% of Germany's population are able to say with confidence that they know Jesus Christ as Saviour personally; 0,3% in France, 0,34% in Spain, 32% in Korea, and 80% of people in Nagaland province in India will say they know Jesus Christ personally.

When we look at the whole world, what will be a percentage that will be enough and will mean that the goal of the Kingdom of God coming, is reached?

In Matthew 24:39, Jesus is saying: How will it be at the end of days?

And we hear Him saying: This is how it will be: Two will work in the field. One will be taken, and one will be left behind. Two will work on a mill. One I will take, and one will be left behind.

This could, at least, mean a 50-50 split.

In a parallel passage, in Luke 19, we read about two are sleeping in a bed. One will be taken, and one will be left behind. So, again, this 50-50 split!

50% is a large amount! Germany and India will be a far cry from that.

Again, we understand that by doing "church" the way we are used to do it, only gave us, as Operation World told us, the growth in the typical church system with, as a result, only maybe a 10 % of the world knowing!

Unless God changes our paradigm of the church back to the Ekklesia of the Bible, we will never reach the goal God has for us!

Something else needs to kick in, some Plan B, some new wine-truth that will reveal something else than what the church is doing right now.

May we share, in this context, with you the prophetic statement in Habakkuk 2:14.

God is saying there that there will be a time where the knowledge of the glory of God will cover the earth like water covers the sea.

Do you know what percentage of the earth surface is covered with water?

70,2 %!

Wow, how exciting will it be when we will be looking at a time where more than 70% of the world's population will know and experience the glory of God!

It is also important to notice that this prophetic verse doesn't say that these people will sit in churches. No! What is said here is that the world will know the glory of God!

(You can go and make a study of this concept, the glory of God, and you will find it to be one of the most fascinating subjects ever to study!)

To know the glory of God is to experience the presence of God, and what happens when the Living, Powerful and Almighty God is suddenly present, somewhere here on earth.

His glory will reflect, and affect you and me, and shine back from you and me so that we will become vessels of His glory, like Hebrews 2:10 would say, I have led many sons to glory!

To know God and to get to know Jesus is good, but to know the glory of God is something even more magnificent!

It seems to us, this is the end in the mind of God: To lead us into this glory!

Yes, that we will know, personally, and on a personal level, the glory of God ourselves, but then will become vessels of this glory in the lives of others! As a family, as an Ekklesia, and even as a nation!

We believe, this is part and parcel of what we are talking about when we talk about the Kingdom of God coming.

Where does the Ekklesia fit into the coming of the Kingdom?

One of our members of this Council of Servant-Leaders, Brett Johnson, suggested the following:

“The church can play a key role in calling a nation towards its destiny, or Liberating a Nation.”¹⁹

And, “The church can play another key role: Ordering the nation.”

Which Johnson simplified as a process of transforming of a nation through ...

- Defining themselves
- Disciplining
- Liberating
- Ordering
- To Self-governing, or else they will be sucked into Lawlessness, and then into chaos.²⁰

Johnson continues, “The church can do many right things, but we need the discernment to know our role given the phase of development of the community or nation in which we live... This will be to God's glory by setting a course of intelligent action.”²¹

Then Johnson went further, explaining that during this process of transforming society, we will discover: the work of transformation is bigger than any of us; that it takes a network; and that households are the keyhole to all sectors; Luke 10's strategy of ministering to a community can be an excellent example of the practical how; societies are relational; business must be defined afresh;

¹⁹ Transforming Society. 2nd Edition. Brett Johnson, Indaba Publishing. P.186.

²⁰ Johnson, p.186-190

²¹ Johnson, p. 192.

business need to be repurpose; and that transforming society requires spheres and collaboratives, etc..

The Kingdom of God is moving with momentum

What do we mean with momentum?

Momentum is defined by Mass x Speed and going in a specific direction.

Thinking about mass, there at least are three masses we need to think about in this context:

1. There are those that are totally ignorant about kingdom and what we are talking about here. They think this “kingdom “is something of what the Jehovah’s witnesses are talking about when they say “kingdom”. They simply don’t know that the Message of the Kingdom is the message in the Bible! And because of that, because of that ignorance, their influence is minute!
2. Then there are those that are talking and repeating what they are hearing others are saying about kingdom, but because they are not consumed by the message of the Kingdom, they make absolutely no impact! They change nothing around them! Even though they talk about “ruling with Christ”, we don’t see evidence that they are ruled by Christ! ²² The Kingdom of God is not there to boost your business and to use to get where you want to go to. No, it is the other way around! It will even ruin your business so that the Kingdom of God can become the business above all other business! The Kingdom of God is not there to make you rich!
3. The right way to go about is to become a Kingdom participant! To become a Kingdom citizen. Where you simply submit under the rule of Christ, where you accept His economic rules, His household rules and the Law of Christ. And you follow the leadership and leading of the Holy Spirit. That is where you become a striker ball that can move things!

Let’s think about speed.

Some are just sitting there like a sitting duck. They don’t move. They are stuck or are running in circles. They are treading water! And if you are not moving, you are not moving anyone else.

Some are inching along ... like a snail!

You need to speed up! You need to become moved by the Kingdom!

Then you can go into any situation ... where you live, where you work, where you and become an influencer of people.

But you can’t do this out of your own. You can only do it where you are in your core ... build and changed into the same rock the Mountain is built of.

Only when the life in you, the spirit in you, the power on you, is the Life, the Spirit and the power of the King of this kingdom.

Where is this all going?

²² Matt. 11:12

If you remember again the stone of Daniel 2

Remember that stone came for the most vulnerable place of that statue ... the brittle toes of that statue.

Looking at that statue, according to my understanding, we see the two legs of the statue, representing the Roman Empire, East and West of this divided Empire, that went out of business in the year 476 AD. But it still went on in ten kingdoms that kept the same substance and character of the Roman Empire. Historians literally call them 10 tribes! Like the Anglo Saxons, the Lombard, the Vandals ... Yes, these were basically the tribes from which the nations of Europe originated. And that was what the Kingdom of God was targeted.

The other side of all of this is a very positive thing ... It is what Jesus said to the Jewish religious leaders, that the Kingdom of God will be taken away from them and given to all of the nations ... who will bear the fruit of that Kingdom!

We believe the message of the Kingdom will be offered to every people-group in this world. And some will take it, and some won't!

But we also believe, the message is not: Will you embrace Christianity? No, it is not about Christianizing nations!

No, it is about offering the Kingdom of God to them.

And many are just waiting on that!

When and where we see something of the Kingdom of Heaven coming to earth and to a community, we will see, at least, as Jesus said:

*"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."*²³

They will bear the same fruit and characteristics as in the life of their King for all to see!

And we will see Matthew 25 happening, where you will see the sheep nations and the goat nations ...

But let's start talking about where we see the Hand of God at work around us ... where we see the fruit of this Kingdom coming. With momentum. Where things are speeding up ... and accelerating.

Yes, maybe we need to understand that the Kingdom of God is a like a virus that spreads and that is contagious ... but all in a good way.

Creating something new. Creating new people. Yes, like a new creation happening before our very eyes!

Yes, and like other virus infections, it happens in close proximity, there where you live and move and love others like yourself. Loving them with the love of the King. Serving them with the heart of the King. Ministering to them with and in the supernatural power of the King. Invading the personal space of others in a very gentle and loving way. Like Jesus did.

²³ Joh. 13:35