

## Update from Pete and Pip Gardner - February 2026

Once again thank you for your support in various ways, we so value it. We are well in heart and health and continue in our rhythm of watching and praying! Picking up from where we left off in the last update, we'll start with an encouragement!

### **Gird up the loins of your mind!**

Negativity and fear are killers to faith and hope. It's so easy to get entangled in anxieties and fears when we observe what is happening globally. So many of my friends, including Christians, protect themselves from the reality of what is happening in the world. Indeed, a 20+ year-old tech expert in a local store who was advising us about new technologies and modern communications mentioned that he hadn't watched the news since 2015!! But the Lord calls his Church to be his change agent on the earth and to partner with him in prayer as he works his purposes out. Our thought life is the first line of attack whereby the enemy sows in negativity and fear to debilitate us.

“Gird up the loins of your mind, be sober and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” 1 Pet 1:13

The picture of a man gathering up his loins and tucking them into his belt so that he can run and not be tripped up is a powerful illustration of how important it is to take negative thoughts, anxieties and fears captive so that we are not rendered powerless by them! Indeed, as we gird up the loins of our mind with the belt of truth and set our hope fully on the hope we have in Christ for the present and eternity, we come free of demonic oppression. We have found this so helpful in our watching and praying.

**Review:** Following the theme of the last update, we want to outline significant changes we are seeing in the global arena. The update is longer than usual as adding some historical background is helpful in outlining these changes. The reason we comment on the changing nature of world affairs is not because of personal interest, but because it is a significant battle-zone within the overall war for the church globally to complete the Great Commission and therefore hasten the day of the Lord, the return of Jesus. As we have said before, the only reason why the world continues to be in crisis is because the Great Commission has not yet been completed. When it is, then death and trauma stop.

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## **A New World Order or the emergence of an Old-World Order?**

When the concept of a new world order is mentioned within Christian circles and particularly within the western world, most think of a more powerful form of the UN, alongside other globalist institutions, gaining greater sway over the global mindset and with an elite controlling the world. This may happen in the future, or it may not, but what is currently happening does not point to that.

International organisations have generally been established after a major global crisis. The UN is a case in point. It was established after the 2nd World War just as its predecessor, the League of Nations, was established after the 1st World War. Over the decades, the UN has grown significantly and is now a multi-organisational setup with offices throughout the world. At the founding of the UN system, national representatives gathered and established rules that nations and international organisations were to adhere to. The UN then functioned as a global bureaucracy to facilitate these rules - often referred to as a 'global rules-based order'.

A key point to understand about this global rules-based order is that although it has been frequently ignored, it has remained influential because the USA has dominated the global scene and the subsequent US administrations were happy to support it. This has now changed!

Following the demise of the Soviet Union, China has taken its place on the global stage as a close-equal competitor to the USA. Consequently, the role of the US as the world's policeman is no longer realistic or even desired by the current US administration. More importantly, this current administration sees the UN as in need of reform and has reduced the percentage of its funding from 22% to 10% respectively until this happens. It was interesting to hear the Director General of the UN make the following statement in January this year, that the UN is at risk of "imminent financial collapse if member states do not pay their fees."

Alongside the rise of China's influence in the Western hemisphere, the US administration is no longer willing to support the concept of the old UN global rules-based order. China only refers to these 'rules' when it suits them. Russia likewise, and its recent invasion of Ukraine became for many, the last nail in the coffin with regard to any meaningful 'rules-based system'.

However, this rules-based order has not completely gone. It is still in place but with a weakening bureaucracy to support it, and without the tangible support of the three strongest superpowers of the day, it is reduced to being a paper tiger with no teeth or

clout to be effective. Instead of being the centre of a 'new world order,' it is collapsing and another order is emerging.

### Emerging empires and Strongmen?

Many commentators are trying to define what is emerging but in effect it is similar to the age when empires carved up the world for their own benefit. Empires have emperors who today we call Presidents, (USA/Russia), or General Secretary's (China). In reality Russia is not an economic superpower - its economy is smaller than Italy's – but it has the largest stockpile of nuclear weapons in the world, has a war economy and uses both to exert its influence on the world stage.



The Financial Times provides a pictorial view of what is emerging: – three emperors carving up the world, each with competing visions of how they want to dominate globally.

These competing visions could quickly ignite into a third world war.

FT:<https://www.ft.com/content/8d1afb00-57ee-4b59-abe3-df0ff18084fb>

### What about the other nations?

Many smaller and middle-strength nations are having to decide who they will align to and how they will respond to the incentives or threats put upon them. Other nations are looking to form new alliances to reduce their dependence on the three superpowers. However, multinational alliances are complex and easily broken apart by the incentives or threats of these greater powers. Here are some examples: -

**Saudia Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan** have formed a protective alliance. They've adopted a similar commitment to NATO's clause 5 that states that if one of them is attacked, then the others will come to their defence. Pakistan's nuclear weapon capabilities give some clout to this grouping. Pakistan is effectively saying it is happy to use its nuclear arsenal to defend Turkey and Saudi Arabia. These are all Sunni nations and see their time to arise as Iran, a Sh'ite nation, is declining.

**Australia, South Korea, Japan and Taiwan** are joining forces in order to form corporate strength against the increasing threat of China within their region. For example, the new Japanese government has committed itself to the defence of Taiwan.

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**Israel** is unique in many ways. It has decided to reduce its dependence on America and build up its manufacturing capacity for all their military needs and as much as they can, to be self-sufficient for their own development and survival.

**Europe and the UK** are in a precarious situation because over the last few decades they have depended on what others can do for them and failed to build any national resilience to changes in the global system. For example, they depend upon the US for energy, technology and military capability; they also depend on China for up to 22% of their manufactured goods and Europe depends on Russia for 13% of their natural gas supply. Europe is essentially paying Russia \$15 billion a year which helps the Russian war effort against Ukraine whilst at the same time financing Ukraine's defence!

**All in all, there is a great shake-up of the global system where a rules-based order is being replaced by new arrangements based on economic and military might.**

### **What does all this mean in terms of the Great Commission progress?**

We are in a season when the prayers we've prayed for decades for the unreached are being answered with significant church growth and disciple-making movements. 25% of the world's population is yet to receive the gospel, the majority of whom are in Asia and South East Asia as well as in the Muslim world.

Alongside this 'quiet revival' that is being documented not only in western nations but also in China, New Zealand and other nations, we have signs of some parts of the church in the western world beginning to take seriously the adoption of unreached people groups (UPGs) and to realign their focus of mission to the remaining task. For example, last year the Assemblies of God in the USA launched their largest mission focus in 72 years to reach the remaining 42% of world's UPGs. Also, one of the largest international prayer networks in the USA is preparing to adopt an Unreached People Group for each of their 5,000 chapters. Imagine if every prayer network and church denomination in the UK did the same. Or even better, every house-group! This incredible advance of the Great Commission over the last 50 years has gone hand in hand with the accelerated growth of participation and focus of the global prayer movement for the nations. The signs of a shift have begun! Another reason for this surge is coming from the regions of the world where the unreached are located, in nations where church, under great persecution, are training and sending out missionaries to near neighbours who are totally unreached.

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At the same time, regional wars and the threat of a 3<sup>rd</sup> world war are looming as a Satanic counter-measure to slow down the Great Commission progress.

This is why Paul urges us to pray for those in high authority. The stakes are high at the moment but God is not shaken. He laughs, not at the tragedy that could unfold, but at the attempts of the rebellious spiritual powers who align with the rebellious earthly kings to stop the progress of the gospel toward the 'fullness of the gentiles' and the end of the age.

**We are convinced that the obedience and prayer of the church engages a far greater authority and power than any combination of global strongmen with all their military might.** In fact, in an instant, their plans can be rendered totally powerless if God decides to act in such a way. Therefore, listening out for the Lord's direction in prayer becomes even more significant for our world in crisis.

We ended a recent zoom call with the following thought: - global geopolitical prayer is at the heart of the prayer that Jesus teaches us in Matthew 6: 9-10

“Pray then like this: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.’”

This is a political prayer! This is a global geopolitical prayer! This is a prayer for global regime change and how we all look forward to that!

Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus, come!

Richest blessings,  
Pete and Pip Gardner