



**CORAM DEO MINISTRIES**

## **MINISTRY UPDATE LETTER**

**December 2023**

### **A CALL FOR MUCH-NEEDED PRAYER COVERING AND SUPPORT**

**Dear Ministry Friend:**

**I am finally able to share in more detail what I believe,  
the Lord is saying to me...**

**So... Go!**



**Fulfil the will of God...**

A few weeks ago, after much prayer and fasting, I sensed a strong reaffirmation in the Holy Spirit to fulfill my original calling in ministering and serving the Lord and feeding His sheep. I received further confirmation in the Scriptures and through several godly men who are my support. It is amazing when the Word of God comes off the page at you from the Bible. Another layer of confirmation was my pastor finishing up his series in Colossians. A verse in chapter came off the page in the Holy Spirit to my soul:

*"And say to Archippus, (say to Stephen) 'Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.'" Col. 4:17*

I sat in a state of being overwhelmed in the love of God in HIS confirmation, care of my soul, and remember the time is short.

I then did a phrase search as I have several times in the past about **"the will of God."** I was reminded by Hebrews 10:35-39:

*"Therefore, do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done **the will of God**, you may receive the promise: 'For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall **live by faith**; but if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him.' But we are not (I am not) of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul."*

There is so much in this passage from me personally in the realities of ministry and the kind of pastoral care of souls in such identity distortions. I have spent the last 35+ years, in which 32 were full-time in serving. It seems very clear that I must fulfill the ministry call on my life given to me in 1983, and there is no retirement, until I retire to heaven in ministering to the great need of our day.

Therefore, I have been busy launching [Coram Deo Ministries](#) as a missionary pastor, encourager, author, and speaker. I am continuing in pastoral care in the local church and will continue to travel and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, setting the captives free with the Holy Spirit healing broken hearts. **Yet this new chapter seems to be a call to GO to the nations!**

I was called into full-time ministry soon after being saved over 40 years ago. However, I did not start in full-time ministry for my initial eight years, which was a beautiful time of preparation for ministry. I gave up the study of architecture to spend my life serving and ministering worldwide to testify and teach on God's amazing grace to heal the sexually and relationally sinfully broken. HE SAVES and delivers souls in the deepest of sin, and I am eternally grateful. Mercy truly triumphs over judgment, yet discipleship in Coram Deo, in the holiness and fear of God is needed now more than ever before to impart grace to souls.

The continued vision of ministry in my life as HIS child is an emphasis from God concerning these last days to prepare souls for His presence, thus "Coram Deo." Coram Deo is the Latin phrase meaning to live in the presence of God constantly, without wavering; Coram = Presence of, and Deo = God. I have an article on the subject of [Coram Deo](#) on my ministry website. It has also been communicated by church historians and theologians that Coram Deo is to behold HIS face and beauty, underscoring the need to embrace the fear of God in the extravagant love of God. I believe this vision of ministry, "Coram Deo," is God's call on my life to finish the course of life well into my senior years of ministry. It is part of my spiritual DNA as His child.

To carry out this vision, I serve in missions through International Ministerial Fellowship (IMF) and the local church. I was ordained with IMF in 1994 and have continued in that relationship. This ministry's mission of service will include much of what I have always done. I hope to relaunch my weekly podcast, "[Freedom Realized – LIVE](#)," in January while continuing with other public speaking. This includes teaching in the church, leading weekends of Freedom, and continued pastoral care for individuals and families.

I have several office needs, travel expenses, and raising support for my household income. **Will you prayerfully consider supporting me in this new endeavor of ministry to fulfill my calling?**

You can now make recurring tax-deductible or one-time donations at [IMF Serves](#) website or my ministry website, [Coram Deo Ministries](#), under the donate tab. I have a list below concerning further clarity of the proposed ministry work. Here is the [direct link](#) for my missionary page.

You may or may not know I have left First Stone Ministries (FSM). Some may need an update about my departure. In that case, a public statement about this separation from the FSM board is located with my public statement on my ministry website [www.stephenblack.org](http://www.stephenblack.org), ["Continuing to Faithfully Serve."](#)

In my separation from First Stone Ministries, I took time off to receive at least 3 to 6 hours of therapy and counseling each week. I must say, I was very depressed, but I finally got some breakthrough and vision a couple of weeks ago after breaking a fast. **Here are some things I believe I have clarity on concerning vision and mission:**

**1) GOD & I:** I know my priority remains to be before Jesus more than ever, and I never get entangled in trying to please men by compromising God's word by silence or otherwise posturing. There are many today calling for compromise under a false banner of love and mercy, I cannot, and I will not.

**2) MY MARRIAGE:** My wife and I know we need to continue counseling in healing from all our grief. I must consistently relinquish everything to the Lord. I remain prayerfully hopeful for our new chapter.

**3) PASTORING:** I now know that I will continue to minister in pastoral care, discipleship, and encouragement of leaders in coaching, as well as dealing with the specific area of IMAGO DEI and human sexuality in teaching and public speaking. I have a small group of younger men who want me to mentor them. I have some space at the church I attend for meeting with individuals and families and have already started this process with my pastor's encouragement.

**4) NEW BOOK:** I continue to write to finish my new book, "Freedom Realized – Lessons Learned," expounding on four chapters from my first book, to give detailed help. I am also three quarters of the way through recording Freedom Realized and hope to have both books to offer as audiobooks.

**5) Freedom Realized – LIVE Podcast:** The direction of relaunching my podcast – Freedom Realized LIVE, seems practical and hopeful; I merely need the financial resources to help with these projects. When I was shut down in April, I had just reached the highest listening audience.

**6) GO! Speaking & Teaching:** I have been asked to speak and lead up some weekends of FREEDOM (teaching on freedom from all things LGBTQ+ practical ways of ministry). Therefore, this really does seem like the Lord's continued direction, as He knows I love to travel and give hope to many. I also enjoy praying for people around the USA **and the world** and watching God do HIS amazing work of grace in their souls. I believe going to Israel, the middle east, Africa, India, and Malaysia is part of this work now.

**7) CORAM DEO:** has always been a “DNA” of my soul and how I was brought into the kingdom. Teaching the beginning of wisdom in the fear of the Lord with HIS LOVE, compelling souls to find lasting peace and freedom, is certainly a direction from the Lord for my finishing well in my senior years. There is more information on my website at the [Coram Deo link](#).

**8) GO!** I have also received a few offers to move out of Oklahoma to do ministry elsewhere. I am continuing to pray about this with my wife. We do not know precisely what that will look like; we are waiting for God’s timing. We have our house and property to sell and downsize our lives. There are three ideas of different types of ministering proposed to me, but much the same as what I already do. I have often wondered if a new state might be helpful. I really need prayer for HIS perfect leadership and timing. It could also be that the Lord would like for me to GO internationally to minister in other countries. Ironically in the last few months, I have been invited to speak in India, Africa, and in the Middle East. **It seems there is a leading for me to GO.**

I have been developing with [International Ministerial Fellowship \(IMF\)](#) for years, (I was ordained with IMF in 1994) to have a missionary page to recognize my calling and services and receive financial support through tax-deductible donations. This will also open the door to other IMF opportunities in conferences and churches. I have also enjoyed working with other national organizations like the American Family Association. I hope to continue working with other organizations and to continue in media.

I am now making direct appeals to donors to consider prayerfully supporting me in CORAM DEO MINISTRIES. Please pray with me as I start over, and for support to quickly be replaced. Please consider me and my gifts in prayer and finances to further the work of Gospel-centered truth-giving. Might you consider this mission to support me now in CORAM DEO financially? Here is the mission and donate page with links for support: (<https://www.stephenblack.org/donate>)

Please let me know if you have any concerns, need for clarification, or ideas consideration in this much-needed continued work into my senior years. My friend and attorney tells me that the most productive years of a minister’s life are usually the decade of the ‘60s, then the decade of the ‘70s decade, and then back to the ‘50s. I hope this will be the prophetic telling of my life in finishing well before Jesus’s throne or His return. So, above all, beloved of God, please pray for me for further direction and much-needed support.

**I appreciate your prayers, kindness, and friendship.**

**Sincerely in Coram Deo,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Black". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

[www.stephenblack.org](http://www.stephenblack.org)

[www.freedomrealized.org](http://www.freedomrealized.org)

***[New DOT Digital Business Card Information for SHB Coram Deo Ministries](#)***