



Monday 19th July 2010

Dear Friends,

I am writing to share with you important news about my future and that Jemma and I believe God is calling us into a new church context in which to lead and serve. These are not easy words to write because of my deep affection for PBC, my personal friendship with many of PBC's members, my delight in how God has developed PBC during my eight years with you, and my excitement about the future possibilities for PBC.

Many of you know that I have carried a strong sense of call to PBC and that I would not consider moving from PBC until God called me elsewhere. About 10 months ago, however, I began to feel the promptings of God's spirit to consider the role of Senior Minister at Tonbridge Baptist Church (TBC), promptings that surprised me at first but developed into a strong sense of call as the application and interview process moved forward. God has confirmed on many occasions during the process that He is in this, and after the final interview the Search Team and the Leadership Team at TBC unanimously believe that I am the person who God is calling to become their Senior Minister when Derek Hills retires in November. I share this deep sense of calling and excitement about the role there and, subject to a positive vote at their church meeting vote in early September, I will leave PBC in early November and begin in January 2011.

This is a very difficult letter to write with the many mixed emotions that Jemma and I both have at this time. We met at PBC and it has been the church family in which so much has happened in our lives and so much significant personal growth has occurred for us. We have strong bonds here and it is hard to consider leaving. 2010 is also proving to be a year of considerable change for PBC, which may leave many of you with mixed feelings. In times of such change, significant spiritual growth can occur if we fully trust in God and keep our eyes on Jesus. I believe such change and growth will precede exciting, fruitful years for PBC if you move forward in purpose and unity and I'm praying that this will be so. You can now fully understand why it is helpful that I come back from sabbatical early, not only to support the Elders with Simon's departure but also support PBC during the initial stages of this transition whilst the Elders organize a Search Team and begin the process of finding the right Senior Pastor for PBC.

I want to thank the current Elders for their understanding, faith and support. I believe their passion for Jesus and considerable strengths will help guard and guide PBC through this season of change. I also want to thank you for taking the unusual step of inviting a 26 year old to be your Senior Pastor. With you I have grown, been allowed to make mistakes and have the opportunity to walk with many of you through your difficult or exciting circumstances. It has been more of a privilege than I could ever express. One truth I love about the local church is that no individual can claim total responsibility for the achievements and progress that is made. Everything that has been fruitful during my time here has been by God's grace and the collaboration and commitment of a wonderful church family and the leaders, Staff Team and Eldership.

Thank you for reading and during Tuesday's church meeting we will have the opportunity to share more of the story and you will have opportunity to raise matters or questions with the leadership here at PBC.

Blessings

Rev. Wayne Alexander – Senior Pastor PBC

To Know Jesus and make Him Known

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