

My Beloved Brothers and Sisters of Hill Country Bible Church Georgetown,

There have been a few key times in my life when God has spoken to me, clearly and unmistakably. One of those moments occurred back in 2002 when God called me to step into the role of Senior Pastor at Hill Country Bible Church Georgetown. It was quite unexpected, because I truly had no intention of ever stepping into the role of Senior Pastor. However, I believe pastoring a church is a calling, and I had no doubt that God was instructing me to follow Him by faith. As such, I submitted to His calling, and for the past 22 years it has been a joy, honor, and privilege to serve the Lord and the body of Christ in this capacity.

During my sabbatical, God once again spoke to me and made it unmistakably clear that it's time for me to relinquish the role and responsibilities of Senior Pastor. Subsequently, at the invitation of the elder board, I've agreed to transition to a different role within our church. Rest assured, I love our elders, staff and congregation, and this is not in response to anything that has transpired within the church. As many of you know, in recent years God has given me a growing passion and calling to focus on more in-depth theological training, to equip and mentor younger pastors, and to plant churches that are anchored in solid, grace-oriented, biblical truth. The demands of being a Senior Pastor of a large church like ours simply do not afford me the opportunity to do both, which is one of many reasons I believe God has called me out of the role of Senior Pastor.

My love for and commitment to our church remains as strong as ever, which is why I've accepted the role of Pastor Emeritus of Hill Country Bible Church Georgetown. Details of my new job description will be forthcoming, but it will allow me to pursue the new calling God has on my life, while still being a part of the life and ministries of our church. Please note that my new role in the church will be primarily behind-the-scenes. In keeping with our Principles and Practices, the Pastor Emeritus will not be an authoritative position. I will report directly to the elders, and all decisions regarding the direction of our church still rest with our elder board, who then charge the executive team and staff to implement those plans.

One question I know is on some people's minds, is whether I will provide ongoing teaching to the congregation. The answer is *yes...* albeit in a different format. The Sunday morning pulpit ministry will continue to rest with the Senior Pastor, and a team of other pastoral staff. However, this fall I plan to launch a weekly podcast that will provide in-depth, compelling, and practical theological training for the congregation. Additionally, I am in the process of launching a non-profit ministry (True Grace Ministries) that will provide access to hundreds of hours of Bible-college level training courses, taught by some of the most respected theologians and professors in the nation. These courses cover a broad range of topics, from biblical and systematic theology to practical ministry skills. Our elders are confident that these new teaching/training materials will be the perfect complement to our current Sunday morning preaching, and enable us to fully equip our church family for life and ministry.

I have much more to share, and I know some of you may have further questions about my future direction in ministry. As such, the elders and I have scheduled an informational meeting for this Sunday (June 9) at 6 pm in the church sanctuary. If you're not available to attend that meeting, it will be recorded.

I look forward to serving you in this new capacity and I'm excited to see where God takes our church in the future!

In His Love and Grace,

*Bryan*

Pastor Bryan Threlkeld