

Saturday 19th October, 2024

Dear Wellspring,

How does one end 10 years of pastoral leadership here somewhat gracefully, expressing my deep thanks for the journey we have all taken together? I'm not sure, but I'll try.

Through the last few months, my family and I have been preparing for this leave-taking. We have cried and prayed. We made a 'Tassie bucket list', which is progressively being ticked off. I've undertaken recruitment processes that have been unsuccessful. We have sat with the limbo of uncertainty. We have had many reminders of why living in Hobart has been such a blessed season. We have sought to finish well with people, projects, and networks that have meant a great deal. In it all, we are deeply appreciative for the many kind and generous affirmations we have received.

It is a still, however, a sobering reality for me that soon I will no longer be your Senior Pastor and Wellspring will stop being our church. I recognise this will be a significant change for me and also for you. For leadership, pastoral care, teaching, and vision, you will look to a new Senior Pastor, and until he or she is appointed, to my fellow staff team members. I am very thankful for the loyalty and support you have offered me, and I now encourage you to make this same commitment to your new Pastor.

As I considered how to put a farewell into words, God brought Ephesians 1:17-19 to mind, but in a different way than I'd heard before. I'll highlight the part that mattered most:

*I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, **what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints**, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of his strength.*

This passage has all the stuff I love (if you know, you know!): a 'Life with Jesus' characterised by the Father's glory, heart transformation, the Holy Spirit's revelation and power, and robust hope. But what Paul is also praying for here is that the Ephesians know how rich they are by having one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. This feels different when one is leaving a church.

You wholeheartedly welcomed me and Camille when we had three children under 5, with another on the way. You were patient and encouraging with a young leader in his first Senior Pastor role. You challenged me to grow skills I didn't have but backed it up with prayer and volunteer help. You interceded for and spoke blessings over us, some of which have been life-altering. You were willing to go deeper when I called you to, and to tune into God's voice when I preached. You wanted our best. For all these reasons and more, I am "gloriously wealthy in the saints" - thank you and thank God.

I trust Him to bless and provide for Wellspring in this new season ahead. Stay close to Jesus.

Your brother in Christ,



(03) 6224 0208
info@wellspring.org.au

Cnr Lord & Grosvenor St
PO Box 405, Sandy Bay TAS 7006

ABN: 56 053 373 061