

As some of you may know, I just finished a 40 day sabbatical. The timing couldn't have been better as I was in real need of stepping away to gain wisdom, perspective and rest as I evaluated my role in HBF, both past, present and future. For me it was a highly profitable time away as God really spoke to me with clarity in all 3 areas.

During the sabbatical I was very intentional to seek clarity through prolonged daily time in the Word and prayer as well as reading several book including "Necessary Endings" by Henry Cloud. Additionally I worked intensively with an Executive Coaching firm that generated an 80 page report on my strengths and weaknesses from 4 world class profiles. And lastly, I sought the counsel of a select few close friends and family members who know me well.

Tonight I want to share with the elders things I have already shared with Pastor James, Scott and the XLT.

As I review my 20 years at Harvest, I would say that many of these years would be counted as some of the best years of my life. Years of great spiritual growth and maturity for me and my family, as well as a front row seat in watching God do miracles among us and through us in Chicago and around the world.

However the last 2-2½ years have not been good years for me, and the sabbatical's perspective revealed some reasons why. It is clear now that I stayed too long in my role and should have relinquished my seat as Executive Director at least two years ago. The Executive Coaching profiles pointed it out so clearly, as did Cloud's book "Necessary Endings". In this season of confusion I believe I injured the Fellowship and caused additional and unnecessary stress on HBF, Pastor James and some other Senior Leaders. Though unintentional it still created problems and unnecessary difficulties. I am grateful for the forbearance and grace shown to me as I have worked through these things.

Men, I want you to know that I love Pastor James, this church and the Fellowship and am deeply appreciative of the sabbatical and the time I had with the Lord. The Lord has made it clear that this is a Necessary Ending.

As for the present and future, I have a renewed sense of purpose for utilizing the gifts and strengths that God has given me in some other context, as the Lord directs.

That said, I want to come alongside Brian and help him lead through this transition. This will likely be from another location as I will be wrapping up my work here on staff in the next few weeks. I am confident Brian White is the right man to take us forward and I believe our best days are ahead.

Kent Shaw  
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