



Sunday 30 January 2022

Dear church family,

Werner has resigned from his call to this church

For those unable to be at today's services please read below the important message that Werner shared at the end of each service.

"The last few months have been very interesting for me. Coming to grips with my call as Pastor of Cambridge Baptist Church and the extraordinary circumstances that we find ourselves in because of the pandemic. Perhaps many of you have noticed – and some have expressed this to me – that you could see that I was wrestling with something. And perhaps you have thought that it was the weight of responsibility that came upon me in transitioning from an interim role to a full-time role. Perhaps some of you have thought that the extra layer of complexity that the Covid-19 pandemic has brought to the role of pastor was the reason I was looking a bit off-colour and not quite being my usual self... However, even though those are valid thoughts and I thank you all for your concern for me expressed often, that is not what I have been wrestling with. What I have been wrestling with is the clarity of the call that God gave to both myself and Heidi to Capernwray on the one hand, and my accepting of the call to Cambridge Baptist Church, on the other. Like those in the passage we studied today (Isaiah 50:10-11), I too was in a place of darkness and confusion when the Bible School closed because of the Covid-19 pandemic. And I must say that being here with you through that very dark and confusing time, filled my days with great joy and I cannot thank God enough for the season here with you. But it is clear to me that God has used this call to Cambridge Baptist to clarify for me once and for all, where He wants me to be and what He wants me to do. As a result, I am compelled to resign from the call at Cambridge Baptist and return to that original call on my life that God gave myself and Heidi so very clearly, not only to be re-aligned with Him but also to make space for the person he actually wants to give to Cambridge Baptist to shepherd and care for you. I apologize for the discomfort that this may cause but I also know that it is the right thing to do and as a result, God will be very present as we all trust Him to guide us through the coming months. I want to emphasise that myself and Heidi are not returning to Capernwray New Zealand. Whatever opportunity God has for us will become clear in the coming months and we will wait and pray."

Keith Grala then spoke on behalf of the church elders. "Firstly, on behalf of the church, I would like to thank Werner for his ministry to us during the last 2 years. During the last 5 weeks or so, the elders have worked with Werner to try to find options other than Werner resigning from his call. We have been supported by Peter Foster of the Baptist Union as we worked through this process. Last Thursday night, on behalf of the church, the elders accepted Werner's letter of resignation from his call and we came to agreement that Werner will fulfil his period of notice and continue as Pastor of this church for the next 3 months. Werner's last day with us will be 19th April (just after Easter). Please give Werner your full support during these next 3 months.

So what lies ahead during the next few months?

- Continue to respond to the changing demands of Covid
- Select and ratify a Call Committee
- Review the call profile for a Pastor
- With active support of the Baptist Union, begin the search
- With your support, continue God's ministry here in Cambridge.

Please pray for unity in the Church and also pray for the church Leaders - that they will have wisdom as they lead this church".

Please feel free to contact Werner or any of the elders if you have questions.

Blessings,
The church leadership