

July 2009

Dear MHC Family,

Thank you for the support you consistently give to the ministry of Mission Hills Church (MHC) through the offerings of your prayers, finances, involvement and encouragement. By allowing Jesus to work through you this church continues to impact our community after all these years.

As I write this month's pastoral letter I need to share a difficult announcement with you. After more "soul searching" and prayer than I have words to express, Becky and I want you to know that we have felt led of the Lord to conclude my ministry here at MHC as your Senior Pastor. So that there is no misunderstanding, let me share with you how and why we have reached this conclusion.

Let me start by emphasizing that Becky and I are *not* leaving because the Board has asked us to do so. In fact, I am very confident in the Board of MHC. Your Elder Board is committed and capable. Nor are there issues on staff that are forcing me out. MHC has been blessed by a quality staff of men and women who are a joy to work with and have given me the finest in support. Additionally, there is no "behind-the-scenes" drama going on that is secretly causing me to depart. On the contrary, I have every confidence that MHC has the possibility of great ministry opportunities through Christ in the very near future. Our love for the people of MHC is greater than at any time since our arrival here.

So, why then are we leaving? In the simplest of terms, both Becky and I sense that we have accomplished what it was that the Lord wanted us to do at MHC. My last 4+ years at MHC have primarily been about making overall changes in the direction and ministry approach of the church as a whole. I believe the next senior pastor will have a much more unified body of believers to shepherd; a stronger Board of Elders to lead with; and a very supportive staff to serve at his side. Becky and I have come to realize that the Lord had in mind for us to help MHC "pave the way" for the next pastor to be able to focus more on forward moving ministry and less on major structural change. Though our "mission" has been different than what Bec' and I anticipated when we first arrived, we now clearly see that it has been about what He had in mind all along.

Becky and I anticipate moving back to the Northwest to assume the lead pastor role at a church just south of Seattle. My last day here at MHC will be July 31. We will be taking time off between ministries to allow for some vacation time, packing, moving and personal recuperation. I can honestly tell you that we will be leaving a huge part of our heart right here with you! Thank you for standing with us in your love and support.

Please pray for us that we will experience His energy and daily direction as we say our goodbyes to everyone.

You should know that the Elders (including the newest additions) have been aware that I have been wrestling with this decision. They have been praying for me and have formulated a “transition plan” to begin implementing prior to my departure. Pastor Doug has been asked to lead and preach as the Interim Senior Pastor. Your current staff is remaining in place and is ready to support the leadership of Doug and the elders. Work is already underway to put together a “search team” of godly men and women who will spearhead the search for a new senior pastor at the direction of the Board. You can feel very confident that leadership, within the elders and staff, are looking to the Lord to help MHC enter into the next chapter with strength and momentum. With your support and backing, I am confident that the best ministry days are just ahead for MHC. Keep in mind that the Holy Spirit is at work, right now, preparing a new senior pastor for MHC and that He is equally working in the life of MHC to receive and follow the leadership of that pastor.

Becky and I know the Lord led us here to MHC. We have never doubted this. Yes, there have been challenges, but the Lord has blessed us in the process of serving you. We will always thank Him for the privilege of being part of the MHC family and hope you will look back at our time with you in fondness and a favorable light. Until we leave, I look forward to continuing to share God’s Word with you and to do all I can to lovingly pastor you in the process of becoming fully devoted followers of our magnificent Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ!

May the Lord bless us and lead us all in the days ahead. Stay your eyes upon Him. He has a plan for blessing. Be faithful and allow Him to unfold it. Becky and I love you!

Your brother in Jesus,

John K. Nagle
Senior Pastor
Mission Hills Church

June 25, 2009

A Word from your Board of Elders -

As we write this letter, we do so with both a sense of loss and a sense of excitement. A sense of loss because we are losing not only our Senior Pastor but our friend. Pastor John and Becky came to us a little over 4 years ago and have always led and served the MHC family faithfully and with an unwavering desire to see us fulfill God's unique call on our lives. A sense of excitement because we have great confidence in the sovereignty of God and His plans for the future of Mission Hills Church.

As the Board of Elders of MHC, there are several things we would like you to know:

1. Pastor John's departure is an amicable one. In his letter, PJ clearly states that his departure is *not* because of Board, staff or congregation issues. In PJ's own words, "both Becky and I sense that we have accomplished what it was that the Lord wanted us to do at MHC." The Elders and staff are currently working on an appreciation event. Please stay tuned for further details. If you would like to help with this event, please contact Karen Buchanan at the church office.
2. During this transition, our ministry focus will not change. Our purpose *to lovingly help people everywhere become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ*, remains our primary task. The Lord has used Pastor John to create a Biblically-based ministry strategy that will continue to guide us.
3. God has blessed us with a dedicated and quality staff. Our intent is that all of them will remain a part of the MHC family and continue in their current roles.
4. The Board of Elders have created and adopted a transition plan. This plan calls for the formation of a Search Team and for Pastor Doug to step into the role of Interim Senior Pastor. The Board is unanimously supporting Doug in his new role. He is excited about this and we have full confidence in his abilities and heart to lead our church family during this time of transition.

Please know that we believe this will most certainly be a positive step in our development and growth as a united church family. God has been powerfully at work in us over the last four years. Let's review how -

1. Our unanimous calling of John & Becky to come to MHC (*a miracle if there ever was one*)
2. Staff consolidation / reorganization - calling of Pastor Doug
3. Office relocation back to the main campus building
4. Revitalized corporate worship - first through Trevor, now through Joel
5. Facility partnership with Heritage Christian School
6. Re-energized Student Ministries through Danny
7. Engaging & inviting Sunday services - very welcoming to visitors
8. Emphasis on serving and participating in a small group

The majority of these positive, necessary growth points have been led by Pastor John. Although not anyone's original intent, we now see that his actual role here was that of "Unintentional" Interim Pastor.

Please be confident in the fact that your Board of Elders has already been listening for God's direction and is desiring to lead us into His future - His story for MHC. Please pray for us, the staff and for John & Becky and be ready to serve as needs arise.

We believe that MHC is poised for a great leap forward in seeing God work through us to reach south OC with the Gospel and to continue to lovingly help people everywhere become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

Don't just watch - step into the movement of God!

The MHC Board of Elders

<i>Mike Thompson</i>	<i>Randy Kirchner</i>	
<i>Dan Hair</i>	<i>Dean Taylor</i>	<i>Jon Harrison</i>
<i>Dave Smith</i>	<i>Spud Senterfitt</i>	<i>Steve Buchanan</i>
	<i>Cormac</i>	<i>Ron Bloes</i>
	<i>O'Modhrain</i>	