

Dear Elders, Deacons and SCBC,

It is with deep sadness that I announce today my resignation as your Worship Pastor. This past 3 years has been one of the sweetest seasons of ministry, community and fellowship that Danae and I have ever experienced. We simply cannot find words to tell you, SCBC how much we deeply love and cherish you and how eternally grateful we are for the way that you have loved, embraced and cared for our family over these last years. There have been many changes and adjustments and you have taken them in stride and chosen to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, even when it was far outside your own comfort zones. I give God glory for this and the way that our church has grown and become a healthy, vibrant place where the Gospel is faithfully preached, lived and heard. God has done this work and to Him be the glory!

From our arrival, it was always our hope and wish that we live and minister here as though we would be here forever and I believe that we have done that. We have lived and pursued relationships as though it was the last place God would take us, but ultimately we know that we are not our own and that God leads through desires He places in our hearts and convictions from the Holy Spirit as we seek to follow Him. South Canyon Baptist has been a place that we have loved, grown in and been ministered to more than we ever expected or hoped. While it is very difficult to articulate the reasons for this decision, we want for your sake to try and express what the Lord is doing in us and what we believe he is doing in South Canyon Baptist Church.

The first thing that you should know is that I have accepted a position in a “non-ministry” vocation in Louisville, KY where we will attend Sovereign Grace Church of Louisville where C.J. Mahaney is the lead pastor and Bob Kauflin is the Worship Pastor. Again, I want to try and put into words how I believe the Lord is leading us and why. Here they are:

1. A break from vocational ministry to focus on and prioritize my marriage and family.

The reality is that ministry life is hard on a marriage and family. I don't say this to elicit any sympathy, but just to try and paint a picture for you. Its demands and stresses on a family and the constant competition for my attention is unrelenting. Last year in May/June of 2017, Danae and I went through a very difficult season in our marriage. In the midst of the attack of the enemy and the lies that we were both believing about ourselves and our marriage, we found ourselves for the first time, unsure if we would come through it together. Let me be clear, this wasn't a season where we were losing our tempers and fighting, but rather one where the demands of ministry and the pain and wounds from past hurts became overwhelming and we began to doubt our fitness for pastoral ministry and our ability to keep going. We regularly counsel people in these situations all the time, but we are human too and found ourselves facing some challenges that are commonly faced in marriage. It was during this time that we, by the grace of God, reached out to Brent and Melodye for help and counsel. They quickly came to our aid and God used them in a powerful way in our lives. We will forever be grateful to God for them and that season of our lives. While Danae and I have come through that and are much stronger because of it and while we have experience a lot of healing, there is still a need for more. We need time and focused energy to heal and be made whole by our loving Savior. We feel the Lord leading us to step away from vocational ministry for a season to sit under teaching and shepherding ourselves and let the body care for us.

2. An opportunity to be mentored by a long time friend and leader.

I have a long history with Sovereign Grace Ministries and Bob Kauflin has been a friend for over 14 years. He is the director of Sovereign Grace Music and I have immense respect and appreciation for him and his ministry. In February of this year, while I attended a worship leaders intensive, we had a conversation in which he expressed his desire and willingness to

mentor and disciple me in a more intentional way. One of the reasons for this decision is to be able to have this godly man who I respect so much pour into me and learn from him. Sitting under the ministry of this church and taking part of the community there as a church member will be good for my soul, for our family and for our marriage.

3. A Prayer that God would clarify my specific calling to ministry.

Many of you have gotten to know me and know me well. If you know me at all, you know that I love music, singing and praising God with those gifts. But many of you also know my passion for teaching, preaching, discipleship and leadership. One of the things that I have wrestled with for years is clarity around what specific aspect of ministry I am called to. Am I called to be a lead pastor of a church and preach, teach, disciple and study? Am I called to do what I do at South Canyon now? The answer is that I don't know the answer and that I'm asking God to make this more clear during this next season of our lives. If God has called me to a lead pastoral role, I want to pursue further education and training to ready me for this task. If he wants me to lead worship, mentor other worship pastors and potentially record worship music, I am asking him to open doors and make this clear.

I hope that, while it may not make this news any easier, these reasons help you understand our hearts and what we believe the Lord is doing in us. You have been so kind and loving to us and we humbly ask that you not stop, that you continue to show your love for us through your prayers. We need them. We need God to lead us and make our path clear.

God knows who your next worship pastor will be and I am praying for this man and ask that you join me in praying for who God would send. I have strengths and weaknesses and so will the next guy, but I pray that the Lord will provide someone who will build upon what the Lord has done at SCBC in a different way...that he will possess strengths that I don't have and be able to lead, along with the other pastors and elders, in what God would have for you, your families and our church for His glory and your good. I believe He is going to do this and I'm asking you to believe with me. We serve a great God who is our Father and He is never not good. He is always good and He loves this church.

Finally, I want to remind you that this world is not our home. We are not our own but belong wholly and completely to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are His. We live for Him. He gets to choose what this journey looks like. I want to lovingly challenge you to join me in a radical surrender of all that you are, and that you have and all that you will ever be. Give it to Him and watch what He does, knowing that where our treasure is, there will our heart be also. We were not made for this world and we will rule and reign with Christ for all eternity. Saying goodbye is not saying goodbye for the believer. We will spend eternity together where there will be no more tears. Look forward to that day and let's spend ourselves and our lives for the Kingdom of God.

Thank you for your love, prayers, gifts, support and trust these last 3 years. SCBC, you are dear to us and have shaped us and marked our lives. We love you and look forward to the day when we will gather around the throne and sing to our Savior for eternity.

Your grateful and humble servant,

Kevin