



Heartland Baptist Bible College

Preaching The Word, Reaching The World...

Sam Davison, *President*

Independent | Baptist Doctrine | Bible Preaching | Fundamental | King James Bible | Local Church Ministry | World Missions | Godly Music

June 10, 2008

Dear Pastor and Friends of Heartland,

At Heartland Baptist Bible College, we continue to rejoice over the Heartland Graduation Preaching Conference of May 12-15. As you have no doubt heard, the preaching and fellowship were such a blessing, along with some of the finest Conference music we have had in ten years. The offering goals were reached (to God be the glory) and seventy-four graduates were awarded their diplomas at the commencement service.

This letter is for the purpose of communicating to you with regard to my future as pastor of Southwest Baptist Church and president of Heartland Baptist Bible College (HBBC). I wish to be very clear so as to limit speculation, misinformation, and conclusions that may not be based upon facts. Please bear with me as I attempt to be clear and thorough, without being too wordy.

In February, I announced to Southwest Baptist Church that I intend to step aside as pastor on May 2, 2010. It will be the occasion of my twentieth anniversary as pastor of this wonderful church. I began five years ago to prepare our deacons for a transition, whether that transition be forced by death or by incapacitation, or whether by my resignation. At that time, I began to speak with our deacons, and later to all our officers, about the recommendation that Jason Gaddis be given first consideration as pastor of Southwest Baptist Church. When Bro. Jason Gaddis joined the church staff in August of 2003, I spoke with him that I had it in my heart and mind to mentor him and eventually recommend him as the next pastor. Most of our leaders and congregation recognized that possibility within months after he and his wife Angie came to Oklahoma City, although I had spoken to no one about it. I have since spoken with our deacons and leaders on numerous occasions, and while the church has yet to make an official move by a church vote, we continue to believe the Lord definitely has Bro. Gaddis here to become the next pastor.

I have felt for some time that if God gave me life and health, I would step aside at some point; it was just a matter of timing. In November of 2007, around the time of Thanksgiving, I really believe I received the mind of the Lord that I should step aside at the twenty year mark, May 2, 2010. Retirement is not at all the word I am using.

As a matter of fact, on more than one occasion I have visited about the future with the directors of HBBC. It is their unanimous desire that I remain as president of HBBC after my resignation as pastor of Southwest Baptist Church, and I have consented to do just that, allowing of course that God gives strength and health and that everything materializes as we believe it will by God's grace.

It should be stated that while the directors have voted unanimously that I remain as HBBC president; a by-law change would be required. The by-laws presently require that the president be the pastor of an independent Baptist church. If it is appropriate and the Lord brings it to pass, I will be glad to accept the "invitation" of Bro. Jason Gaddis to remain at Southwest Baptist Church, possibly as pastor-emeritus. The support base of HBBC Friends of



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Heartland must approve of the by-law change in January at the National Church Planters Conference.

The plan, therefore, is that I will continue as president of HBBC, hopefully with more time to give attention to the College. Also, as the Lord enables, the plan includes preaching revivals, missions conferences, Bible conferences, youth camps, and special meetings just as I have done for years, promoting Heartland at every opportunity. That is the plan, and a plan is all that it is.

Frankly, it is difficult for me to speak about future plans. It must be clear that "if the Lord will" should be placed in every sentence. Surely we all understand that many variables are possible in a two year period. So while we do not boast about the morrow, we do seek His leading and direction for the future of Southwest Baptist Church and Heartland Baptist Bible College.

God bless you for your love and interest in HBBC. There is reason to be excited about the future of the school, and to be a part of it is a huge blessing.

Your servant,

Sam Davison
Pastor, Southwest Baptist Church
President, Heartland Baptist Bible College

