

Rick's Farewell Letter

Dear Watersprings Family,

It is with a great affection for you all, that I am sharing that the Lord has a new adventure in store for Tammy and me. Through a recent period of prayer, the LORD has made it very clear that He is calling me to "let go" of my ministry here at Watersprings and walk by faith into a future that He has prepared for us. I'm reminded that He is the faithful ONE who knows us and loves us and has a plan and purpose for each of us — God often surprises us with new seasons of which we may have never dreamed. I must confess I am struggling to let go of the Watersprings family that has been a great joy of my life for these last 24 years! However, if we want to catch hold of the future that God has planned for us, we must be willing to let go of the past we are holding on to.

Most pastors leave churches because there is some relational conflict, internal strife, division, or sin that has gotten the best of them. I am so glad to report that this Watersprings family of believers is more fruitful in love, joy, peace and unity now, than at any other time in our history together! God is working in a more powerful way than ever before in every dimension of the ministry! Not only that, but Tammy and I are more in love than ever!

In some ways, this peace and fruitfulness makes it even more confusing why the Lord would move us on. I have discovered over the years, however, that God's plans don't always line up with my human logic. I do believe by faith, however, that God always knows what is best for everyone involved, even though we don't fully understand it.

Isaiah 55:8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. Over the years I have prayed, "LORD if you ever call me somewhere else, please let it be when the ministry of Watersprings is thriving!" and I now realize this is God's answer to that prayer.

The only problem is that this is so much more difficult than I ever imagined it would be! If it is any consolation to those who hear this news with a heavy

heart, know this, that Tammy and I are leaving our Watersprings family kicking and screaming because it has been such a great joy to serve you, God's precious people! This truly is the hardest thing I've ever done. Just think, when we get to heaven there will be no more goodbyes, and we'll get to see how God's design all worked out for HIS glory!

I have sought the most gifted servant of the LORD to take Watersprings to a whole new level of fruitful ministry Ty Orr and his wife Laurie, from Calvary Chapel of Salmon, Idaho. I ask that you please give them the same love, affection and respect that you have shown Tammy and I for all of these years. Then I know it will be a great and successful transition of leadership for the glory of THE KING OF KINGS AND THE LORD OF LORDS! JESUS OUR GREAT HERO!

In His Strong Name,
Rick

Acts 13:2 ... the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.