



March 28, 2011

Dear North Rock Hill Church Family,

Last week I submitted my resignation as Lead Pastor of North Rock Hill Church. I want to take this opportunity to share with you, briefly, some of the reasons I am making this decision.

A few weeks ago Dino preached a sermon and put into words what I have been struggling to understand for so many years. He used an analogy of how wounded people often settle for Band-Aids for their hurts. What I discovered was that I had been covering up the outside pain of personal issues and had not dealt with the real core issues. What we often need are not Band-Aids but surgery.

Over five weeks ago I made a decision to begin surgery with some issues in my personal life that have impacted me for over seventeen years. I wanted to take responsibility for those areas in my life that I have neglected for many years. Holly and I, over the last several weeks, have been to an intensive counseling center. In that time I began to identify some of the key issues that have been manifesting themselves for many years. In a letter it is not easy to explain in detail all that led me to where I am today. But I have struggled with anger, I can be very controlling, and my pride has caused me to care more about what people think of me than what God thinks of me. The result of these things has led me to not allow people into the deeper parts of my life. It has also impacted my relationship with Christ. Obviously, I have tried to fill that void over the years... unsuccessfully. I have not only been looking for the areas where I am struggling but even more importantly their roots... where are they coming from.

After returning it was clear that I still have a long way to go on this journey. It was clear that I needed to resign my position and begin focusing on some areas that I have neglected for a long time.

I have asked permission from leaders to continue attending NRHC. My entire family believes deeply in what NRHC is doing and wants to be a part of that vision even if we are not leading. I have met with leaders and they have agreed to walk with me during this time of discovery and healing. I am very grateful and humbled by their willingness to walk with me during this time.

I do want to apologize. There are many regrets. However, I hold firmly to our faith that God is our Redeemer through Jesus. I preached that Gospel message for many years and now am clinging to its truth like never before.

In closing, I want to challenge us as a church to not take a step backward but a step forward. It is during this time we will see the true colors of North Rock Hill Church. Do we believe in a vision and the person of Jesus Christ or a leader? There will be many who will wait to see us fail. I want to challenge the church to live out what we have said for so many years... we are a different kind of church. Let's step up and serve more in our city, step up and begin doing life in a deeper and more rich way with others, let's step up and lead our homes better than ever, and let's step up and show the power of the Resurrected Jesus like never before!

On the Journey,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "C" and a dot over the "i".

Chris Ruppe