

Stuart and Gills Announcement

Convenor: We have an important announcement from the Pastoral Leadership Team and I am going to ask Aaron up to introduce this:

Aaron: As part of the Pastoral Leadership team of Stuart and Gill, Mel and Tim, Alan and Sally and Lynsey myself I want to share some news about a development in our team and update you on something that God has been doing behind the scenes over the last few months.

Stuart Hannah to come up and read his statement:

With mixed emotions, Stuart, Gill and the boys are moving on from the Vine. We've spent nearly 30 years and 22 as a married couple, living and growing in this beautiful church. All living organisms grow and change, and we know now is our time to do the same.

Isaiah 54:2 says:

"Enlarge your house; build an addition; spread out your home!"

in the NIV it reads:

"Enlarge the place of your tent,
stretch your tent curtains wide,
do not hold back;
lengthen your cords,
strengthen your stakes."

We have felt the call and also the tension to build, to enlarge and extend our territory and have been on a journey for some time with friends from South Africa. Going forwards we will be joining with Linc Church in Durban and continuing in ministry with them, although we will remain based in Dunfermline.

This move is not us leaving from here, but going to... on a journey, equipped because of here; not holding back; lengthening and strengthening, in obedience and following the dream God has put in our hearts. We both came to the Vine limping, with an obvious limp, we're moving with a leap. This is a call to momentum... to walk into the fullness of God in every area of our lives... for all of us!

Let's keep our eyes on Jesus and build His church, with Him. He is the Master Builder and the church is His church! He is the great church builder and in this new season, we are not only recipients of His ministry, but also agents of His ministry. We're so grateful to you, The Vine Church; thank you.

To Jimmy and Elma and Aaron and Lynsey, Alan and Sally and Mel and Tim... and too many friends to mention., thank you for believing in us, walking with us and pushing us to maturity and growth. This isn't leaving from... it's a journey of going to!

Aaron: On behalf of the rest of the leadership team we just want you to know we are all 100% behind Stuart and Gill at this time and recognise this is a huge decision for them and a courageous step of faith. We have been supporting Stuart and Gill over the last few weeks and months as they have been praying about this decision and we are able to say; on the one hand how, excited we are for them and see that this is a response to God's call on their lives and a continuation of the journey they have been on especially over the last two or three years. On the other hand, of course, we are going to miss them hugely! On a personal level and as amazing servants and leaders of the church here for many many years.

But we trust God in all things and believe this is a sign of His continual hand of favour and blessing on us as a congregation. A sign that we are part of his kingdom and the Body of Christ around the world and we see that God has prepared Stuart and Gill for this next season in their lives.

Next Sunday will be their last official Sunday with us and we are going to pray over them and give thanks for them during the service next Sunday. We invite you all to celebrate with them after the service with some refreshments and cakes. We are all going to miss them and their wonderful boys Reuban, Archie, Charlie and Milo but reassure you that this a God thing and a good thing and we will keep an open door for them all at any time and look forward to hearing and seeing all that God is going to do in their lives in the years to come. Let's just give it up for Stuart and Gill right now