

# PASTOR KEN BOEHR

---

Dear Mitchell Berean Family,

Thank you for partnering with us in the gospel mission at Mitchell Berean Church! Engrained in MBC's mission is a dependence and reliance upon God, watching for where He is moving, and moving where He is leading.

As many of you know, the Elders of our church approved a planned sabbatical for me and my family as part of the policy in which pastors receive a 6-week sabbatical every 7 years. 7 years landed us in the middle of Covid and a lead pastor transition, so after 10 years of being on staff at MBC, Christina and I will be taking our first sabbatical.

The purpose of this sabbatical is multi-faceted as I learn to value Biblical Sabbath rest, remove myself from my identity in my pastoral work so I can rest in my identity in Christ, and learn to do my work in the easy yolk of Jesus. It also gives the opportunity for other leaders within my area of ministry to grow in their leadership.

During my sabbatical, I seek to deepen my intimacy with Christ, connect with Christina and my 6 amazing children, and seek God's wisdom for the future of the Worship Arts Ministry at MBC. I plan to read some key books, perhaps write some songs, rest in God's creation, and to create a plan for improving my area of ministry upon my return.

January 7 will be the final weekend that I will lead worship before sabbatical. Our first stop as a family will be Trinidad (the country), where we will spend time connecting as a family and staying with Justin Heerah's family. I'm sure there will be many walks along the beach, sightseeing opportunities, and conversations with Ronnie, Justin's dad, who is a pastor there.

My family and I will briefly return at the end of January to ensure everything is going well at the house, then Christina and I will depart to attend a week-long intensive pastoral retreat at an established ministry on the west coast and see some family afterward. We'll have a little time back home, then I will depart by myself to Table in the Wilderness to spend the better part of the week alone with God before the men show up for Men's

Advance on the evening of February 22. Then, March 3 will be the first weekend back leading worship!

During this time, I will be out of communication, so I will not be checking on or replying to email, phone or social media messages. I hear that my phone will not function in Trinidad, so that will help curb my impulse to want to stay connected to my work.

While I am away, I have entrusted the Worship Arts Ministry to Justin Heerah and Josh Colerick, faithful servants in the ministry, to shepherd the team, help plan sets, and address issues that may arise. Also, Renate Johnson, MBC's Online Production Tech, has been trained in many of the technical aspects, so give her much encouragement (and coffee) as her role will temporarily increase.

I invite you to my sabbatical commissioning at the service on January 7 as my church and its leadership bless this time of rest to God's use in my life and productivity of Mitchell Berean's mission upon my return.

I want to thank the leadership of MBC and my amazing Worship Arts teammates, and every one of you for the opportunity to take this sabbatical. Some churches wait until it is too late, but our church leadership is to be commended for being proactive in maintaining the health and longevity of its pastors by providing this opportunity to be refreshed and prepared for long-term, effective ministry.

Prayers are welcomed for me and my family during this sabbatical. Pray for safety in travels, refreshment in the Lord, clarity for ministry vision, and a successful onboarding when we return. Pray for my kids to not be too overwhelmed with the idea of getting ahead and then behind on schoolwork, and pray for the Youth Worship Band as Alexia will not be leading for a couple months. Keep the Worship Team in your prayers; I am confident their calling and ability to continue a high level of excellence.

You will be in our prayers as we meet daily with the Lord!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Boehr', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ken Boehr