



MacARTHUR BLVD. BAPTIST CHURCH 2616 MacArthur Blvd., Irving, Texas Phone 255-1128 Prayer Chapel 252-6006

## Pastor Ronald L. Dunn Resigns Last Sunday to Be August 31



I want to read a passage of Scripture found in Philippians 1. I believe in taking a text for everything, Verses 3 through 8, Philippians chapter 1. The message tonight is going to be very brief for two reasons. . . .

I'm going to read my message tonight and the message is this, that tonight I submit my resignation as pastor of the MacArthur Blvd. Baptist Church effective August 31, two Sundays from today.

This has not been an easy decision. It has been one that has taken a long, hard struggle for myself and for my family and for quite a number of you.

About two years ago, as most of you know, the Lord began to open a great many doors and I began to carry on a wide outside ministry in conferences and there has never been any doubt that God has opened these doors, and that God's blessings have been upon this ministry, both in the lives that He has changed and in the anointing of the preaching of the Word. I had no plans to leave this church in preference of that ministry because my heart was here and this was where God had called me but as time went by that ministry continued to widen and began to demand more of my time and energy and I became less effective as your pastor and in the conference ministry. For two or three

years rumors have circulated that I have resigned or was planning to resign or wanted to resign, none of those rumors have been true. I have to admit there were times when I was tempted to resign just because everybody thought I was going to. But not until just two or three months ago did I seriously consider the fact that God was through with me as the pastor of this church. I prayed through that time and felt that God wanted me to stay here. Some thought that when I took a month off it was to help me make a decision. That was not true. When I left here for that month of vacation I thought the decision was made. I would not have left if I had thought I was going to be leaving later on, but while I was away and when I came back I still could not lay to rest the decision that was facing me.

Several months ago I shared with you my burden of my preaching ministry and so many of you graciously understood and I can't begin to tell you tonight how much your understanding and your prayers and your standing with me has meant. I know there have been some that have not understood the other ministry and have felt that you were being deprived of a pastor, and for that I'm deeply sorry. But I have tried to follow the Lord's will and I appreciate so much all of you who have been willing for me to carry on both ministries. But it has become increasingly obvious to me that it is impossible for me to be as effective a pastor to you as I want to be and also to be effective in the wider ministry that God has given me. Not only because of the time required in study and preparation but also because of the physical exertion on myself of trying to carry on two full time ministries. And so in the past week I have come to what I hope to be a final decision in this matter. Indecision has been my greatest problem here because I have been torn so much by the love of this church and not been able to physically and emotionally and every other which way tear myself away from the relationship of this church. I used to think that doing the will of God always was bliss and sweetness and peace, and I sat here a moment ago

and I said "anything this miserable cannot be the will of God."

My wife read to me this afternoon out of a book that greatly ministered to me concerning Peter walking on the waves. There was no reason for Peter to look at the waves, they had been there before he made his decision, they were still there, and in looking at the waves he only increased his own doubt and uncertainty. And I find myself again and again looking at the waves. But as this author said, there are no new factors to be considered, there are no new issues come to life, they are the same as they have been and I cannot deny the fact that God is calling me into another ministry, and has been calling me, and has made it unmistakably clear in my heart. I have only one desire and that is to do the will of God, and I have prayed all week and I prayed early this morning and I prayed this afternoon that God would keep me from doing anything contrary to His will. I thought for a moment this morning when I was about to lose my voice that the Lord was about to stop me from doing it. And I thought how appropriate it would be to have a supply to resign for me tonight. It would seem to be in such keeping with what I have done so much of lately. But as the Lord spared my voice, He has made it so clear this evening that what I am doing is in His perfect will, and while I am filled with turmoil and sadness and agony, yet there is in the center of my being, in my heart of heart, that assurance that I know I am following the will of God. And I had rather be dead than to be outside His will. And to be in His will is life, and so I make this decision tonight and submit the resignation to you believing that there is no doubt that this is God's will for me. It is something that I think that most of you are not surprised at and God has called me into this ministry and I can do nothing more or less than obey Him, regardless of how painful it may be for me at the present, yet I know there is joy and peace abiding in the center of His will.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ronald L. Dunn