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Leadership Announcement

The Nashville Church has gone through a difficult transition over the past two-and-a-half years, as have our sister churches. We have made every effort to maintain unity locally and with the other churches in our fellowship. One of the greatest challenges we have faced is a changing leadership paradigm – going from an evangelist- led church to a more biblical model in which there are qualified men serving as elders. As evangelist, Doug Lambert was leading our church at a time of major upheaval, and he and his wife, Jennifer, have never stopped giving their hearts and energy for the well-being of the church.

However, over time it has become apparent that the evangelist and elders have very different views regarding the leadership of the church. It has become clear that there is too much painful history to work through and overcome, and it has been very difficult to make progress.

Therefore, it is with great sadness that we announce that Doug and Jennifer will no longer be serving the Nashville Church in their ministry roles as evangelist and women's ministry leader. While this is a sad and challenging time, we all agree that this is the best thing for the church and for the Lamberts. We believe that a fresh start will be healthy for all concerned. We also believe that even with this change, we can continue to have a healthy relationship as brothers and sisters in Christ, and to this we are committed. We do not characterize this as a resignation or as a "firing." We consider it a mutual agreement by all. We have been praying for God's will to be done in this matter and believe that His Spirit has led all of us to this decision.

We want to express our gratitude to Doug and Jennifer. We deeply appreciate their service. We regard them as heroes in the faith. They have made many personal sacrifices to be in the ministry. Doug, an attorney, gave up a law practice to go into the ministry in 1981. They courageously went on the church planting team to Argentina in 1987, taking only a suitcase of clothing. Their children, William and Victoria, were both born on the mission field. They have labored tirelessly here in Nashville and have persevered through many trials. Their lives will remain an upward call to all of us in Nashville.

We pray that God will continue to grant his grace and mercy to us all, and that we will extend it to one another as we attempt to serve Him and advance the gospel of Jesus.

Barry Holt, Dave Mundie, Bob Neyland, Priestley Reaves, and Woody Rowe
Elders of the Nashville Church
October 26, 2005