



When God Says, "Get Out of Town!"

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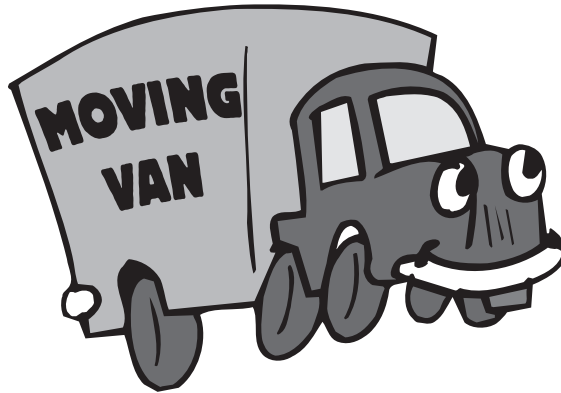
Scriptural Basis:

Matthew 21:22
Proverbs 14:12
Matthew 25:29
Matthew 25:40
Matthew 26:39
Genesis 12:1

Twenty Reasons to Stay Where You Are

1. God put you there.
2. Your spouse needs stability.
3. The money is not better over there.
4. There are worse pastors than the one you have.
5. There are worse elder boards.
6. There is a lack of workers everywhere.
7. You'll have to find a new dentist.
8. It costs a bundle to move.
9. The children of your church need the best.
10. The workers of your church haven't caught your vision yet.
11. The pastor is not fully educated.
12. God is bigger than your problem.
13. Moving will only land you in a larger problem of the same family.

14. Maybe you are the problem.
15. There are still unsaved children in your area.
16. Your treasurer needs to be educated.
17. You have not yet reproduced your ministry in others.
18. You'll have to find a new family doctor.
19. Furniture is still heavy.
20. God didn't tell you to go.



Reasons People Leave

1. Lack of vision
2. Frustration or burnout
3. Moral failure
4. Not effective
5. Not willing to change
6. Change of philosophy (church, pastor)
7. Church outgrows you
8. You outgrow the church

9. Time to go ("It is finished.")
10. God promotes you

It may be necessary to develop your own set of questions for your prospective pastor and board. Whenever possible, secure all answers in written form.

How to Move

1. Go on time.

- ❖ It is better to be on time than early or late.
- ❖ Follow your heart.
- ❖ Listen to God; He knows better than your friends.

2. Do not prolong your escape/move.

- ❖ A month is more than enough.
- ❖ Once you have decided, leave.
- ❖ When God releases you, why stay around?

3. Go with your mouth shut.

- ❖ Gossip is sin.
- ❖ If you have a problem with someone, handle it scripturally or it will follow you.
- ❖ Do not fellowship with people you never met with before the resignation.
- ❖ Tell people the real reason you are moving (GOD).

4. Involve your family in the decision.

- ❖ In prayer before a conclusion is reached
- ❖ In prayer throughout transition
- ❖ Let them help with practical aspects
- ❖ Give kids opportunity to ask hard questions (be honest)

5. Leave in such a way that you can come back.

- ❖ There doesn't have to be a fight.
- ❖ God is moving you, so what's the problem?
- ❖ You will go through a grief process; find a friend who can help you grieve.

Common Courtesy

- ◆ Return calls.
- ◆ Put away arrogance.
- ◆ Learn that people are important.
- ◆ Send any correspondence promptly.
- ◆ Be punctual for phone and personal interviews.
- ◆ Dress for success.
- ◆ WWJD?
- ◆ Make no demands; instead, make requests.
- ◆ Don't allow past damage/bad situations to sour new-found relationships.
- ◆ Give your new pastor a chance to prove himself.

Conclusion

The last thing the next children's pastor needs is your whining, disgusting, negative departure from the church. Prepare the way for him or her. Be God's person, following God, in a godly manner. Prepare the workers, the children, and the pastor for the next leader.

"Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you" (Philippians 4:9).

Questions for Further Study—

1. Have you ever left a church in the wrong way? How could you have handled it in a more God-pleasing way?

2. Have you had to pick up the pieces after another pastor left in the wrong way?

3. When you come to a place of transition in your life, what is the ideal situation you would like to be in? What steps can you take now to prepare for that transition?