*“Dear PR,*

*Today I prayed for you. I can’t remember the last time I actually did but for whatever reason I felt compelled to pray for your wellbeing as you are about to enter into your long-overdue sabbatical. While I was praying, I felt so much guilt for not once considering what you might be going through as GLMC goes through this season. It’s been so easy to see only the negatives lately, especially with so many people/families deciding to leave in the past couple years and the health of our church being mediocre. You’ve said more than once that Pastors are human, and that they too are sinners like myself, that deal with everyday problems. But even as you preached those words at the pulpit on Sunday I never actually fully understood what that meant. Even as I write this, it seems hard to grasp the gravity of what it feels to be in a position as yours. There’s something about Koreans and the perceived glory of having high positions that make us think you are invincible to any threat. I wish we, as a church, would let go of those perceived notions.*

*I’ve been hoping you would be going on a sabbatical for some time now. Never publicly, but whenever the topic of church came up within my friends, I always thought you were due for one. But the reasons I had for wanting you to take a break weren’t always nice. I prioritized the health of our church over the health of your spiritual/mental/emotional wellbeing and looking back, I think I was wrong. Praying for you made me feel so much more empathetic to what you might be going through. I don’t know exactly what you are going through this season, but I can only assume that it isn’t the best. So I do hope and pray that this sabbatical will do you good.*

*PR, I do hope you find this email somewhat comforting. I know that GLMC hasn’t been the most supportive church in the past couple years. But I do firmly believe that God is sovereign in all he does, and whatever he is doing must have a purpose. I hope you know that I am rooting for you, as well as praying for you. I pray that you come back not just a better preacher/teacher/care-taker, but as a more healthy, happy individual who’s found his joy again in Christ. Above the health of GLMC, I pray for you and your family’s health. And before I forget, thank you for being our Pastor. I’m not sure if you hear that often enough, but your work does not get the recognition it deserves. So once more, thanks PR.*

*Josh Hwang”*

That was an email I sent to PR on Jan 2, 2019, approximately two weeks before he announced he’d be stepping down and about a week after he formally gave in his resignation letter to GLMC. Timing huh?

Goodbye PR. Thank you for all you’ve done for GLMC, both the seen and unseen to the congregation. You’ll be greatly missed.