

Scott Crenshaw Statement

First off, I would like to thank the New River family for the prayers, scriptures and encouragement that you have sent me during my cancer journey. Ten days of hospital time, complications and recovery have ended in a clean bill of health from this week's visit to the doctor.

Father has not only revealed cancer; He has revealed to me other areas of my life that need His attention. In the last year, we have seen several prominent pastors descend to the point of falling, burn out or removal from their pastoral seat. I don't want to be on that list.

Recently I have fallen into areas of temptation that sicken and embarrass me. Please hear this: I am not embezzling or having an affair, but I have found myself viewing inappropriate images that are not in line with what God calls me to be.

I have always preached that New River was not a museum for perfect people, but a hospital for those who are hurting, jacked up and messed up. If this church is only for perfect people, then it would be very small and you would be without a pastor.

We have always taught that hurting people are welcomed here for God's love, mercy, healing and even discipline. Well, now it's my turn. I have watched the crowds come in and encounter the healing hand of our God. No one is exempt from sin and no one is exempt from God's healing grace, including me.

For this reason, I am stepping to the side for a season of healing and restoration. I am submitting to the leadership of our Board of Directors, as well as other qualified leadership, who will be walking me through counseling and restoration. My heart breaks even as I am writing this. I have never claimed to be a perfect man, but I am kneeling at the feet of the One who is. Thank you for your continued prayers and love.

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