

Finish Well

November 1, 2029

Dear 65-Year-Old Robby,

This is your 45-year-old self writing to you from the office of Bluebonnet Baptist Association in New Braunfels, Texas, on March 23, 2010. About twelve weeks ago from this writing your dear friend and mentor, J.K. Minton, retired as Director of Missions and released the reins of leadership into your hands.

I'm writing to remind you to do the same thing. Today you're 65 years old. Maybe you are still the leader of Bluebonnet Baptist Association (wouldn't that be cool – twenty years!). Maybe the Lord sent you somewhere else. Whatever the case, it's time to release leadership to a younger generation. It's time to move into the next phase of your calling – the mentoring, encouraging, cheerleading phase. You have lots to give. Let go of the reins of leadership so you can give away what the Lord's given you.

Numerous thoughts may tempt you to hold on instead of releasing. Don't believe them. You're not that important. Things will go just fine without you as the leader. Let go, trust the Lord, and have fun in this next leg of the journey.

Of course it is possible that you will never receive this letter because the Lord has called you home or He has brought all things to their consummation. Either way, praise the Lord!

If He has not done either of those things, then proceed into the next phase with joy and thankfulness. If that beautiful girl of yours, Sue, is not yet in heaven, then the two of you have a ball together assisting ministry leaders and churches and helping people find and follow Jesus. Your call hasn't changed. You just get to do it in a different way now without the burdens of running an organization.

Happy birthday, old boy. The faith in which your mother reared you has carried you this far. Keep going. Finish well. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

Love,

45-Year-Old Robby

PS Has your golf game improved in the last twenty years? I didn't think so. You always were a slicer. Who cares? Play on!