

Pastor Juan's 2026 Sabbatical Report

From 22 June to 21 August, I was pleased to take the sabbatical granted to me by High Pointe Baptist Church and our elders. The purpose of the sabbatical was to take some time away to reflect, rest, and rejuvenate. Below is a general accounting of my time away:

22-26 June | Taught Systematic Theology 2 at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS)

28 June – 3 July | Taught at Muskoka Bible Centre, Ontario, Canada

5 -26 July | NATIONAL PARKS: Grand Canyon, King's Canyon/Sequoia, Yosemite, The Redwoods

- On weekends we stayed in hotels: Mariposa, CA, San Francisco, CA

2 -21 August | FLORIDA

- Rest and Relaxation – South Daytona Beach, FL
- 7-10 August | Charleston, SC

21 | Came Home to Austin

8 Truths the Lord REMINDED me of During Sabbatical

1. God is a glorious creator (Psalm 19:1-6).

- Enjoying God's creation leads us to delighting in God (worship).
- Even unbelievers are awed by God's creation (Romans 1:18-25).

2. Jesus is a wonderful Savior (Philippians 3:20).

- The God who created is also the God who saves – through his Son, by his Word, in the power of the Spirit.
- Our role is to be faithful witnesses to this God and the gospel of his Son.

3. Jeanine is an amazing wife (Proverbs 31).

- Jeanine showed herself to be a "P31" by planning our sabbatical and going out of her way to serve me so that I was blessed, encouraged, and enriched.
- THANK YOU, Jeanine, for your faithfulness and willing self-sacrifices.

4. High Pointe is my favorite church (Philippians 1:3-11).

- There is no such thing as a perfect church, but there is such a thing as a perfect-for-me church, and High Pointe is it!
- THANK YOU, High Pointe, for loving us, caring for us, being so generous to us, and giving us this time away.

5. High Pointe's elders are faithful pastors (1 Peter 5:1-4).

- The elders led well, cared for the congregation, and prioritized the ministry of the word.
- THANK YOU, brothers, for loving us, caring for us, and making sure the ministries at HP continue.

6. High Pointe's staff is highly competent (Colossians 3:23).

- Our staff worked diligently to keep things going and make sure we didn't skip a beat.
- THANK YOU, staff, for your diligence and continued service to High Pointe.
- THANK YOU, Robert, for leading the staff and freeing me to be able to get away.

7. We are finite creatures (Psalm 103:15-16).

- Because we are finite, we need time to getaway to reflect, rest, and rejuvenate.
- What made this sabbatical fruitful was the time away to rest, think, read, pray, assess, reorder, and reestablish.
- I am returning with a renewed sense of purpose and intentionality, ready for the next season of ministry together.

8. God has given us everything we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3-4).

- God has given us himself, in his Son, his word, his Spirit, and one another – we have everything we need.
- The ministry of High Pointe is not built around one person or personality. It is the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, shepherding his church through faithful elders, who teach the word and care for his sheep.
- Since God has provided all we need, let us work together to *glorify God by making wholehearted followers of Jesus among all peoples.*