

After 6 Months, Israel Houghton Returns to Joel Osteen's Lakewood Church

Joel Osteen's Lakewood Church welcomed home former worship leader Israel Houghton Sunday, just weeks after he announced his engagement to Adrienne Bailon.

"SO refreshing to be home@lakewoodchurch this morning sitting next to this Queen @dodieosteenhearing my friend @realjohngray bring a powerful message. @dadra@imstevecrawford @petewilsons & the team led an amazing worship experience. My heart is happy today.#ILoveMyChurch," Houghton posted to Instagram with a picture of him and Dodie Osteen, Joel's mother.

Houghton left Lakewood in March, but maintains he was not fired.

Dodie shared the picture, as well, tweeting: "One of my favorite pple & singers Israel Houghton visited us today. Our family was so glad."

"We can confirm that Israel is on indefinite leave, but it is important to clarify that we still consider Israel to be a part of the Lakewood family and that his employment has not been terminated," the church said in a statement.

Members of the Lakewood Church appear thrilled he returned.

"@DodieOsteen I Was glad to hear John Grey announce that Israel was in service today. Welcome home Israel. We love you," one member tweeted.

Another posted: "Awwwww, we love you (Isreal)."

On Instagram, Houghton's followers washed him with cries of "Welcome home!" and "We missed you!"

Houghton is currently performing all around the world.