

Israel Houghton Announces Divorce, Says He 'Failed and Sinned' In His Marriage

Grammy-winner Israel Houghton announced the end of his 20-year marriage to Meleasa Houghton, telling Facebook followers "I failed and sinned in my marriage."

"Several years ago I failed and sinned in my marriage. ... Although we tried, the challenges in our relationship have proven too much to overcome. We have always handled our family and ministry with grace and generosity toward others, discretion, and privacy," Houghton posted.

Houghton is the senior worship leader at Joel Osteen's Lakewood Church. He and then-wife Meleasa founded New Breed Ministries in 1995. New Breed Ministries is comprised of noted musicians and singers who serve within their respective churches and, together, serve the church at large.

Houghton has won five Grammy Awards, 13 Dove Awards, two Stellar Awards and a Soul Train Music Award.

Houghton says the news might be shocking to some, but many close to them were aware of their marital troubles.

"I am in the process of restoration and I have repented for my actions. Although I am sincerely sorry, and forgiven, I soberly realize that I will live with the consequences of my failings for the rest of my life," Houghton posted on Facebook.

"As this has become a public matter I want to apologize to the many who have supported my ministry through the years. I'm sorry for the many who will be hurt to learn of my personal failure. I regret any pain or disappointment that this news

may cause you. We thank you for your prayers and for allowing us to handle this privately with those who are set over us in this process," Houghton concluded.

The couple has three children.