



SACA NEWS

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APPRECIATING YOUR PASTOR

October has been set aside as Pastor Appreciation Month by the NAE. Serving in churches as pastor for over 27 years, and now as a Superintendent seeking to be a pastor to pastors, I understand the many demands, frustrations, unique struggles, loneliness, and fears pastors battle in their ministries. It is not an easy path. It is important to note that most pastors are quick to share their love for the ministry and the Lord's people they serve. They are sustained by the conviction of their call, the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, the joys of fruitful ministry, and the loving support of family and trusted friends. The reality is that perceived support and appreciation go a long way toward a pastor finding satisfaction in their service and not succumbing to the stresses and walking away.

Writing for Lifeway Research, Scott McConnell shared an article entitled, "Are More Pastors Quitting Today?" in May 2021. In it, McConnell shares this insight about pastoral ministry:

"Consider for a moment the fact that almost every task a pastor has is by nature complex: studying for a sermon, giving marital advice, providing leadership to a volunteer organization, having budget responsibility, helping those who are grieving, etc. That diverse complexity alone is taxing."

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Ministry Happenings ...



Big Splash, 2021



BLESS YOUR PASTOR IN OCTOBER!

FAITHFULLY PRAY The best way to help your pastor is to faithfully and regularly pray for: • Intimacy with God • Marital love and unity • Spiritual protection • Divine guidance • Emotional and physical well-being • Parenting skills • Genuine friendships • Financial provisions • Daily wisdom • Personal encouragement • Helpful mentors • Effective ministry • Time management • Quality study and prayer times • Helpful training and books • Leadership skills

FONDNESS • Let the pastor know how God is specifically and teach you to follow God. • Re-birthday and anniversary with a post. • Show appreciation for your give grace in their weaknesses.

FREEDOM • Give your pastor's spouse the freedom to be themselves and to find their own niche at the church. • Let your pastor's children "be kids," care about them, and pray for them.



FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FUN • Prepare a meal or baked goods for them (ask about favorite meals or certain foods to avoid). • Give your pastor a gift card for restaurants, fast food or coffee shops. • Give your pastor food from your garden, orchard, hunting or fishing trips. • Invite your pastor and family to your home or a restaurant for a meal. • Invite your pastor and family to go fishing, sailing, camping, hunting, to the gym, concerts, plays or sporting events. Offer to cover some or all of the costs. • Offer your pastor's family sports, concert or event tickets. • If you have a vacation home, timeshare, recreational vehicle or camping gear, offer to let your pastor use it. • Share frequent flyer miles that can be used for conferences, vacation, mission trips or holiday travel. • Offer your pastor the use of your dependable vehicle, SUV or minivan for a holiday family trip or vacation.

FREELY SHARE Share your skills and time to help with any of the following items: • Babysitting • Auto maintenance and repair • Home repairs, maintenance and projects • Decorating, painting and wallpapering • Haircuts and beauty treatments • Medical, dental and chiropractic care • Lawn and garden upkeep • Legal, estate and financial services • Tutoring or lessons for children If needed, communicate in advance if there are any out-of-pocket costs the pastor will need to cover (e.g., parts for a car repair or materials for a home repair)

FINANCES Faithfully give to your church, so your pastor can be properly compensated. Beyond the pastor's church salary, the Lord may prompt certain individuals to provide personal funding to help with any of the following items: • Bless Your Pastor offering • Marriage conference or retreat costs • Christian camp fees • Back to school fees, clothing or supplies • Children's college tuition • Mission trips • Lessons

or tutoring • Family or couple's vacation or getaway • Pastor's conference, seminar or training • Seminary courses or sabbatical • Student loan debt • Retirement savings • Medical expenses

PAY IT FORWARD Most people have heard about "paying it forward." Do you know you can also pay it forward by passing along possessions you no longer use or need? Possible items could include appliances, furniture, musical equipment, clothing, sports equipment or electronics. Ask if the items you may have available are actually needed and wanted by the pastor's family. Also, be sure they are in good condition and will not need costly repairs.

Note: Please be prepared to graciously allow your pastor to decline anything that you offer. Also note that most items mentioned here are not normally tax-deductible to the giver, but are to be given out of gratefulness to God for what he has given to you to Bless Your Pastor (Shared from BlessYourPastor.org)

¹² Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. ¹³ Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

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The article also goes on to describe some of the reasons pastors leave the ministry. According to the Lifeway Research survey, "26% left because of conflict in the church and 13% because they were a poor fit for that church. Pastors also leave because of family issues (17%), moral or ethical issues (13%), burnout (10%), personal finances (8%), and illness (5%).

McConnell went on to say that "By July of 2020, pastors' greatest pain point had become maintaining unity within their church." One pastor, quoted in another article by Lifeway Research, shared that "I'm aware that people are growing weary of the entire pandemic. Some are scared to death, while others are convinced it's a hoax. Trying to minister to both ends of the spectrum is exhausting." Add to the pandemic squabbles the political battles and racial tensions that boiled over into church life, and you have a prescription for pastoral burnout in staggering numbers.

In this month's SACA NEWS, you will find many suggestions for how you might bless and encourage your pastor. First and foremost, I ask you to pray for your clergy family frequently. Remember the words of Hebrews 13:17, *"Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you."*

Rev. Joe Pritchett

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Coming Events...

September 26	Women's Sunday
October	Pastor Appreciation Month
October	Christmas in October
October 24	Berkshire Institute for Christian Studies Sunday
October 31	Advent Christian Village Sunday
November 21	World Hunger Offering
November 25	Thanksgiving

Philippians 1:4-6

⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.