



The Fellowship Journal

Rooted in Grace, Growing in Love

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Four Reasons to Pray for Your Pastor Daily



As a pastor, few things warmed my heart more than church members telling me they prayed for me daily. Their simple act of prayer both encouraged and reassured me. It encouraged me to know they were standing in the gap for me spiritually, and it reassured me to know they loved my family, the church, and me enough to do so.

Now that I a member of a local church, God has been impressing upon my heart the importance of praying regularly for my pastors. They are men called by God to serve his flock, and they regularly bless my family

and me. The least I can do is pray for them faithfully. There are many Biblical reasons why we should pray for our pastors, but let us consider just these four.

First, pastors face a higher judgment. The ministry of the Word is a rewarding but dangerous calling. In fact, James cautioned that not many should become teachers because they will face a stricter judgment.[1] In addition to the ministry of the Word, the pastor is also responsible for the souls of his flock. This is a daunting responsibility, for which they will give an account.[2] If these were not enough, pastors also steward God's glory in the church and before the community. Their character is to be sterling, and their reputation unblemished. God expects much of his ministers, and we should be much for them in prayer.

Second, pastors face more intense temptation. Peter tells us that Satan roams about as a roaring lion seeking those he may devour; and there is no one he enjoys devouring more than a Christian minister, especially a faithful one.[3] When he does, he not only ruins a pastor and his ministry, he also destroy a family, disrupts a church, and sullies God's glory in that community. There simply is no sin like the sin of a clergyman, and thlere is no one Satan desires to bring down more than those whom God is using most fruitfully.

Third, pastors face unique pressures. There are days pastors carry the weight of the world, and for reasons of confidentiality, all they can do is bottle it up. Whether it is a piercing word of criticism, a disruptive sin, a draining counseling session, a rigorous day of sermon preparation, or just the operational challenges of most congregations, all of these burdens—and more—can mount up to make the strains of ministry seem at times nearly unbearable.

Fourth, pastors will bless you more. This final point may seem odd, if not altogether self-serving, but it is true. Over the years I have noticed the more I pray for my pastor, and especially his preaching ministry, the more I get fed from the pulpit. Perhaps it is God answering my prayer for my pastor, or perhaps my heart is better prepared to receive the Word after praying for the preacher, but time and again I have seen a direct correlation between the two. The surest way to be

Church Office Hours
Mon-Fri 9AM-1PM

<u>Index</u>	<u>Pages</u>
Articles	1-3
Total Offering	3
L.O.T.	3
Committee Updates	4
October Events	4
S.T.S	4
Converge	5
Our Church Family	6
Calendar	7
Children's Puzzle	8

October is Pastor
Appreciation Month

personally blessed is to pray more fervently for the preacher and the preaching of God's Word.

Any man can take the title pastor, and too many men have. Only those called of God can rightly shepherd his flock. If God has given you such a man, you have been blessed indeed. Make sure and bless him—and yourself—by praying for him daily. Pastor appreciation Sunday comes around one week a year. Why don't you show your appreciation daily by praying for God's man?

Ten Things Pastors Would Love to Hear from their Church Members

It is a simple question.

What do you hear from your church members that gives you the greatest encouragement?

The responses from the pastors were amazingly similar. In fact, I was able to focus on ten specific areas. Here are summary statements of those areas.

“I pray for you every day.” This statement was the most frequent. Read it carefully. It's not just prayer; it's daily prayer. The pastor understands ministry is spiritual warfare. The pastor understands prayer is one of the greatest weapons in the warfare.

“I want to help your family any way I can.” Most pastors are stressed and stretched. So are their families. When a church member offers to support and help the family, the pastor feels like shouting for joy.

“I want you to know specifically how God spoke to me through your sermon.” The key word here is “specifically.” It's not a lot of encouragement if a church member says perfunctorily “good sermon.” Let the pastor know the specific meaning and application to you from the sermon.

“I am ready and willing to take on that ministry task.” Pastors take great joy when a church member understands that ministry is to be done by the members, that the pastor is not the hired hand to do it all.

“I see my role as an encourager.” Pastors need numbers of people who will take on the Barnabas role. The critics will always be there.

“I see my role as one who will confront the bullies and the perpetual critics in the church.” I have heard from countless pastors that it's not the critics who bother them as much as the “friends” who will not speak up and to the critics and church bullies.

“I will make certain your family has an adequate income.” One of the great stressors on pastors is financial worry. It is such a relief and joy when a church member takes the role of financial advocate for the pastor.

“I am available to babysit your kids.” Pastors with young kids relish a husband-wife date night. Many of them are unable to go out because they can't find or afford babysitters.

“I will be in church with no excuses unless providentially hindered.” Pastors hear plenty of excuses. It is a refreshing change for them to hear from a no-excuse church member.

“I will never compare you to a previous pastor.” Yep, pastors cringe when they hear, “Pastor Bill used to do it this way.” Let your pastors know they have their own identity, and that previous pastors are not a scorecard against which they are measured.

8 Experiences All Church Leaders Need

By Chuck Lawless

I believe in leadership training. In fact, I teach D. Min. and Ph.D. courses in Christian leadership at Southeastern Seminary. From the gospel of Mark, though, here are eight experiences all Christian leaders need even apart from educational training:

We need to hear Him calling us. For some of the disciples, the call was, “Leave your boat behind and follow me” (Mark 1:17). Your calling may be different, but all of us who lead need to know we do it because of His calling.

We need to be with Jesus. He called His disciples for that purpose first, followed by their preaching and dealing with demons (Mark 3:13-15). If you’ve not first been with Jesus, you’re really not in a position to do anything else in ministry.

We need to be in a storm that forces us to trust Jesus. That’s where Jesus put His disciples when He sent them across the sea (Mark 4:35-41). This kind of storm reveals our faith (or lack thereof) *and* the power of Christ. Every leader needs these reminders.

We need some ministry victories. Jesus sent out His disciples, and they saw demons flee and sicknesses disappear (Mark 6:12-13). Our victories may not be as dramatic, but we need a glimpse of His glory once in a while to press on in ministry.

We need to hear Jesus say, “You take care of the problem.” That’s what He told His disciples when 5000+ people needed food (Mark 6:37). We need to be in places where our task is much, much bigger than we are.

We need to be reminded, “You can’t do this without prayer.” Jesus’ disciples learned this truth the hard way when they tried to cast out a demon without praying (Mark 9:28-29). Many church leaders function in our own power enough that we need to hear these words directed to us.

We need to learn that God’s kingdom is much bigger than we are. The disciples got stressed when they found somebody else outside Jesus’ group casting out demons, and they told him to stop – but Jesus taught them otherwise (Mark 9:38-40). The best leaders have learned that they’re only one among many.

We need to look into an empty tomb. This time, Jesus’ followers were the women who went to the tomb to anoint His crucified body. There, the angel told them, “He is not here. Come see the place where they put him!” (Mark 16:7). We today see that empty tomb by faith, but we *still must see it at least that way*. Christian leaders without a genuine resurrection faith are not prepared to lead God’s church.

L.O.T. Restock Calendar

October Dry Bottom Days:

Baby wipes and diapers (sizes 4 and 5)

Total Offering to date: \$ 225,548.67

Total Special Offerings to date: \$ 18,688.10

“Steady plodding brings prosperity; hasty speculation brings poverty.”

Proverbs 21:5

Committee Updates

Outreach Team

The team met September 20th at 6:35 p.m. Pill bottle collection will continue through December. An Outreach representative will attend the PMI Dinner, Oct. 13 at 6:15 p.m. The PMI baby bottle project will be held in January. L.O.T. donations are dwindling and we may need to change distribution to one time a year. The next meeting will be Oct. 18 at 6:35 p.m.

Submitted by Brenda Hockenberry

Family Fun Night, October 11



We had great Family Fun Nights this summer and we want to continue in October. It is a great time for our church members to get to know our community friends. It is a wonderful way for us to show God's love to all. Please invite your friends and family to join us. Our upcoming Family Fun Night is October 11, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dinner will be at 5:30 p.m. Any questions, please contact Lynn Rotz @ 816-1510.

Adult Scavenger Hunt, Oct. 15 at 5:30 p.m.

Come and enjoy traveling around Chambersburg area looking for items with a Halloween theme. Teams will be formed and all teams need to have a Smartphone and transportation. Teams finding the most items will win prizes. Afterwards a light supper will be provided. Babysitting will also be provided. Sign-up sheet is in the lobby. Come out and have a hallowing good time.

Happening in Our Community

Pregnancy Ministry Fundraiser Dinner is being held Oct. 13 at 6:15 p.m. at Antrim BIC Church. Let us show our support in the community with your attendance and financial support. For more information contact Brenda Hockenberry at 240-727-6812.

The Life Community Church will be hosting a free Oil Change day on October 22, 2016. Please contact Linda at 717-552-8221. She will be asking for information on your vehicle so that they have the proper filters and oil for that day.

“Seasoned to Serve”

OCTOBER 5: **Bus trip to Leesport's Farmers Market/Flea Market, has been cancelled.**

NOVEMBER 17: Hosting/serving a Thanksgiving dinner to the Head Start Families

DECEMBER 15: Christmas Dinner Show at Antietam Recreation's Center. Show: *The Christmas Experience*. (details and sign-ups coming later)



Contact Reid and Linda Pletcher for information or sign-up for events: Phone 423-5288 or email: reidlinda@hotmail.com

*You're
Invited*

Join us on October 8 at 5 p.m. to meet Dan Peterson from Converge World Wide at an informal reception.

At 6:00 p.m. a Carry-in meal will be served, followed by a Presentation at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

A signup sheet will be in the lobby on October 2, to bring a hot or cold dish, meat will be provided.

*Join us on Sunday October 9,
Dan Peterson will preach followed by a fellowship time in the gym
after the church service.*



Dan Peterson, Converge Mid-Atlantic Executive Minister

Dan has served as Executive Minister for Converge Mid-Atlantic since 1993. During Dan's 23 years of regional leadership, the District has grown from a small network of 30 churches, to a dynamic and diverse movement of 100 churches in a 7 state region. Dan is a graduate of Bethel College and earned his Master of Divinity degree from Bethel Theological Seminary in St. Paul, MN. He also earned his Doctor of Ministry degree from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA.

What is Converge Worldwide? They are devoted to being a movement that is:

Spiritually dynamic: We glorify God in all we do, trusting in the authority of his Word, the sufficiency of his Son, the power of the Holy Spirit and his delight in prevailing prayer.

Missionally driven: We multiply transformational churches, reproducing the life of Christ in disciples, leaders and congregations worldwide.

Relationally devoted: We display Christ's love in our relationships and ministry partnerships, expressing his compassion, generosity and irenic spirit.

Culturally diverse: We advance Christ's destiny for his church—a church that reflects the beauty and synergy of worshipers from all peoples and cultures.

The Research Committee on Fellowship Affiliation believes that Converge Worldwide allows us the greatest opportunity to be connected to other like-minded churches in ministry and fellowship, but we still retain our identity as The Brethren Fellowship.

Check out Converge World Wide

Converge World Wide Website: <https://www.converge.org/>

To connect to their current news updates go to: <https://www.converge.org/newsline>

Our Church Family



Thank you

A great big thank you to Reid Pletcher and Jeff Reichard for helping Mike and Sharon Schaeffer with work around their home.

October Birthdays



Bobby Angle
Louann Barnhart
John Clugston
Jessie Crusey
Katie Diller
Jessie Wenrick Eiker

Skyler Eiker
James Frey
Robbie Gable
Nita Gibbons
Kalee Hovetter
Mary Sue Keath

Carol Landis
Santana Martin
Carol Slimmer
Nathan Statler
Tristan West

October Anniversaries



Allen and Karen Bierbower
Mike and Carol Clugston
Jennifer and Brian Hann
Joe and Ruby Pentz
Larry and Lucy Sellers
Steve and Brenda Vanpelt

Changes to Your Information

If your address, telephone number, cell phone number or email has changed please let the church office know so we can keep in touch with you. You can email Mona at brethrenfel@hotmail.com or place a note in the church mailbox. If you haven't received a birthday card or anniversary card, please let us know the correct dates for our records.

October 2016 Calendar

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 9:00a-Sunday School 10:00a-Worship Service	3 6:30p-Property	4 12p-CTC 12:30p-HOG Yoga	5 6:15p-Prayer Time 6:30p-Youth 6:30p-Bible Study	6 5:30p-Discipleship	7	8 5:00p-Dan Peterson from Converge World Wide Reception followed by Dinner and Presentation
9 9:00a-Sunday School 10:00a-Worship Service-Dan Peterson will preach	10 Gym, Sanctuary, Chapel, reserved	11 12:30p-HOG Yoga 5:30-7:30p Family Fun Night 6:30p-Worship and Music Team	12 6:15p-Prayer Time 6:30p-Youth 6:30p-Bible Study	13 8:00a EFCV	14	15 5:30p Adult Scavenger Hunt
16 9:00a-Sunday School 10:00a-Worship Service	17 Newsletter Articles Due	18 12:30p-HOG Yoga 6:00p-Finance Team 6:30p-Deacons 6:35p-Outreach	19 6:15p-Prayer Time 6:30p-Youth 6:30p-Bible Study	20	21	22
23 9:00a-Sunday School 10:00a-Worship Service	24	25 12:30p-HOG Yoga 6:30p-All Leadership Team	26 6:30p-Youth 6:30p-All Church Prayer Time	27	28	29
30 8:30a- Breakfast and Storytime for all generations 9:00a-Sunday School 10:00a-Worship Service Remodeling Offering	31					

a=A.M.

p=P.M.

Pray Time is held downstairs

All Church prayer time held in the Chapel

STS-Seasoned to Serve

HOG-House of Grace Yoga-in the Chapel

Pastor Appreciation in any Language

P S A L A M A T P O V T G T M
 B A T S T D X T T R D E R O N
 H D R A O I A S H Z D S A D C
 I I K K E T I N I A A E Z A D
 S K S X N R I E K O N K I I A
 A N I T A U K I B E K K E N I
 K E A H U U K I K H I Ü Y F R
 A K F R J T S P E O E R E O K
 M E A E K A I J W T X E T R U
 I Z X T P U O Y C A M D N M S
 R I Z S R D H I C G K E A A Q
 E G R A C I A S A I Q R S L K
 T I J U K Ê D M E R C I A R K
 H N A D I N M A H A S M A K G
 K C A T F O D A G I R B O M K

ARIGATO

DANKIE

DÊKUJI

GRAZIE

KAMSAHAMNIDA

MERCI

SHUKRAN

TACK

TERIMAKASIH

TODA

ASANTE

DOJEH

EFHARISTO

INFORMAL

KAWP-KUNKRAP

OBRIGADO

SPASIBO

TAK

TESEKKÜREDERIM

XIEXIE

DANKE

DZIEKUJE

GRACIAS

ISTUTIY

KIITOS

SALAMAT PO

SUKRIA

TAKK

THANK YOU