

SUPPORTING YOUR PASTOR'S MINISTRY

28. Take your place in the life of the church!
Discover your spiritual gift and use it.

29. Encourage your pastor in continuing education and spiritual enrichment, providing both time and finances.

30. Make sure conferences and seminars for your pastor & spouse are not considered vacation time.

31. Give new ideas a chance. "But we have always done it that way" are the eight most deflating words a creative pastor can hear.

32. Never compare your current pastor with a former pastor. It is unfair, bears no fruit, and stands a good chance of causing discord.

33. If you are not tithing, start working toward that goal - then let your pastor know of your decision.

34. Tell people about your church. Invite them to worship and introduce them to your pastor.

35. Be a consistent Christian, regularly attending and supporting the ministries of your church.

36. Consider purchasing a van for church activities and make it available to your pastor.

37. Take an active part in at least one ministry of the church, giving help and/or leadership.

38. Understand the many expectations placed upon a pastor - and monitor your own expectations.

39. Share Christ in the marketplace, and insights from your pastor's sermon with friends.

40. Continue to **develop your own personal walk with the Lord** - keep on growing!

41. **Be teachable** - open to new thoughts and ideas.

PRAYING! LOVING! CARING!

42. **Pray daily** for your pastor and family!

43. Pray for the Lord's protection over your pastor, their ministry and their family.

44. Form a prayer group that prays regularly for your pastor and family.

45. Arrive at church early enough to pray for the services, leaders, and Lord's blessing.

46. **Pray for insights** in how to be most effective in caring for your pastor and family. God will lead you if you are open!

47. Remember, pastors consider themselves to be caregivers. It may be hard for your pastor to receive care so be relentless!!

48. Be diligent in offering your care to your pastor and family.

49. Ask, ask and ask again - "**Pastor, how can I help you?**"

50. Send your pastor and spouse to SonScape for eight days of rest, renewal and re-creation.

SonScape is a nondenominational retreat focusing on spiritual formation and burnout prevention. It provides a setting in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado to refresh, renew and revitalize those in full-time Christian ministry.

For additional information, a current retreat schedule and how you can make it possible for your pastor to attend, contact:



"Igniting and Restoring Christian Leaders Worldwide"

P.O. Box 7777, Woodland Park, Colorado 80866

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50 WAYS

*To love
your pastor*



"Igniting and Restoring Christian Leaders Worldwide"

PASTORS UNDER PRESSURE

Pastors are under tremendous pressure. As a result, burnout is a major crisis facing the church today.

We expect our pastors to be biblical scholars, powerful preachers, sensitive counselors, successful managers, and effective fundraisers.

Most pastors work 60-70 hours a week to meet all of the demands we place on them, but still, many feel they're falling behind in ministry and in life:

- 80% say ministry negatively affects family.
- 70% have low self-esteem.
- 70% do not have a close friend.
- 60% are in some form of crisis.
- 50% struggle in their relationship with God.
- 15% consider quitting every Monday morning.
- 400 pastors per week leave ministry in the U.S.

PASTORS NEED YOUR LOVE

The Apostle Paul says you hold the key to helping your pastor be happier, healthier, and more effective:

"Now we ask you brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work."

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

The 50 suggestions in this brochure are a "crash course" in how you can love your pastor in practical ways.

It is our prayer that these suggestions will help you and others in your congregation begin demonstrating care for your pastor today. The suggestions presented here can be applied to your church staff and the others who serve God through your congregations.

Bob and Sandy Sewell
Larry and Barbara Magnuson

CARING FOR YOUR PASTOR

1. **Write a note** or leave a phone message telling your pastor something you learned from a recent sermon.
2. **Celebrate the anniversary** of your pastor's coming to your church.
3. Plan a surprise luncheon for your pastor.
4. Take your pastor fishing, golfing, sailing, etc., not to talk about church, but to play!
5. **Never say negative things** about your pastor or the church in front of your family or others. Talk directly to the pastor if you have a concern.
6. Ask if your pastor is a "handyman." If not, organize a group to help care for any repairs at church or home that the pastor feels need attention.
7. **Care for your pastor's health.** Provide for adequate medical and dental services. Adequate health insurance is a must!
8. A membership in a health club is a wise investment for your pastor.
9. If your pastor is not mechanical, offer to help with any maintenance on family cars.
10. As a church, make annual physicals mandatory.
11. **Pay your pastor as well as you possibly can!** Overwhelm them with generosity!
12. Be sure your pastor has at least one day off a week - then make sure it is taken!
13. Congratulate, show appreciation, and give love!! Keep your eyes and ears open for ways to show love and concern.
14. **Provide adequate paid vacation.**

CARING FOR YOUR PASTOR'S FAMILY

15. Drop a card or note to your pastor's family to express appreciation and brighten their day.
16. **Remember the birthdays** and wedding anniversary of your pastor and family.
17. Take your pastor and family out for a meal after church or at another time.
18. Include your pastor and family in your family activities, but give them the right to decline.
19. **Give your pastor's spouse freedom.** Allow members of your pastor's family to be themselves. Appreciate them for who they are.
20. Remember that your pastor's children are children, not miniature saints. Allow them to be children and don't burden them with your expectations for their lives.
21. Support and encourage your pastor's children. Find out what they're interested in and talk to them about those interests.
22. **Protect the privacy** of your pastor and family, and their time together.
23. Help your pastor by stocking the family freezer. Provide a freezer if they don't have one.
24. **Be aware of any special needs** of your pastor's family. Be especially sensitive around major holidays - like Christmas.
25. Consider contributing to the education of your pastor's children.
26. Plan a surprise gift for your pastor and spouse - several days at a B&B is always welcome!
27. Buy something for your pastor's family - perhaps something totally frivolous but fun!