



SACA NEWS

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2... 4... 6... 8! WHO DO WE APPRECIATE!?

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you. (Hebrews 13:17)

October is Pastor Appreciation month and I want to encourage you to be a blessing to the men and women who serve us. As the writer of Hebrews reminds us, their responsibilities are daunting. You may never have considered this fact, but those who serve us as pastors feel the very real weight of watch-care over the souls of their congregation. This passage of scripture reminds us all of the accounting that will take place. Every pastor I know has a sense of this expectation.

Can you imagine anything more overwhelming than feeling responsible for watching over the souls of everyone in your congregation? Most of us can feel quite frustrated just watching over ourselves! The Lord tells us through the Word that all of us who receive ministry from our pastors should do what we can to help them serve with joy, and not be a source of groaning... makes me wonder if I have ever been "groan-inducing" to my pastor.

What kind of things might elicit a groan from the pastors who serve us?

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Ministry Happenings. . .

September 15, 2024 marked the launch of REDEMPTION COMMUNITY CHURCH in Clayton, NC. This was a church re-planting effort with support from Northside Community Church, Rev. Dr. Adrian Dixon, ACGC Director of Church Planting, and the Eastern North Carolina Conference. Over 100 people attended this first service.



The Worship Team was led by Oliver Romero, Worship Director at Redemption.



Rev. Dan Karl, Pastor

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Public Disrespect – Certainly all of us are open to scrutiny, and those in ministry recognize the added responsibility associated with their service. Also, good-natured joking can be very warm and friendly. However, it can be very disheartening to a pastor to be disparaged or embarrassed in front of those that they serve. You can hurt your pastor's ability to serve effectively if you mistreat them in front of others, particularly visitors, children, or even their own family. Show respect for the pastors. Scripture says that those who lead well are "worthy of double honor."

Ignoring boundaries – Part of the ministry is the reality that emergencies happen at unexpected times. You will often be called on to go to hospitals, tragic scenes, and painful events at all hours. Pastors accept this aspect of service. However, they should be allowed as much privacy as possible and should be encouraged to be a good spouse and parent. This can be hindered when people demand large chunks of a pastor's time on a regular basis for trivial matters that can wait for a more opportune moment. It only takes a handful of people to monopolize much of a pastor's time. I have seen church folk show up unannounced at all hours at the parsonage because they feel entitled as one of the "owners" of the house. Show respect for the pastor and their family's private time. We should encourage them to take good care of their family.

Distraction before a service – Preparing to lead a worship service or to present a sermon is a serious responsibility. A pastor recognizes that for those attending a church service, it is incumbent on the pastor to foster a worshipful atmosphere. Also, a pastor is humbled to realize that they are sharing the Word of God and must do so correctly, appropriately, and responsibly. Sometimes important and unavoidable matters arise just prior to the beginning of a church service. However, bombarding a pastor immediately before a service with criticism or minor issues is unfair and counterproductive to corporate worship. While leading a prayer time for a church leader facing cancer surgery, I was approached by an adult church member who came forward and pulled on my sleeve to tell me that the men's room was out of toilet tissue. Seriously. Help protect your pastors from unimportant matters as they prepare to lead us in our times of worship.

Withhold support – Leadership is hard work. As a pastor, you get up every day knowing that almost every person in your congregation believes they know what you should be doing and what direction the church should be going – and it is possible that no two of them will even agree. In other words, many of the people you are leading believe they could do your job better than you. This can be a crippling hindrance to moving a ministry forward. Many pastors face opposition daily from within their own congregations. The Lord never expects us to support immoral or unbiblical behavior by our pastors, but we should show them grace, forgiveness, and respect. There are those who try to manipulate their pastors by withholding their attendance, votes of support, encouragement, or finances. This behavior does not honor the Lord.

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Undercompensate them - No one should enter the ministry as a path to riches. The accumulation of wealth is generally pretty low on the list of priorities for those who enter full-time Christian service. But scripture teaches that “a workman is worth his hire” and that “those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.” A pastor should not expect to be the best paid person in the church, nor should they be the poorest. I know a pastor who served for eight years in a church that grew both numerically and financially and received a single 1% raise during that entire tenure. Failing to adequately compensate your pastors shows a lack of compassion for their family and creates additional stress that can hinder their ability to minister effectively. In obedience to the Lord and out of respect for those who serve him, regularly consider how your pastors are compensated and seek to be generous in providing for them.

Let’s seek to encourage our pastors so that their service may be filled with more joy than exasperation, which is advantageous for us all.

— Rev. Joe Pritchett

Ministry Happenings . . .

The Advent Christian General Conference Executive Council met the week of September 9-12, 2024 at the denominational offices in Charlotte, NC.



Pictured: Tom Loghry, Adrian Dixon, and President John Gallagher

The week began with Superintendent Meetings, followed by the Subcommittee, and then the Executive Council. Reports were provided concerning activity in our international mission fields, domestic church planting, and the further development of the Ministry Training Institute under new director, Mike Alix.



Justin Nash, ACGC Executive Director

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**Rest for your Soul
Leader’s Conference
February 4-6, 2025
AC Village
Dowling Park, FL**

To register click [Here!](#)
Or
www.acgc.us

Come to me...I will give you rest.

At the 2025 AC Leaders’ Conference we will examine healthy rhythms and habits that enable church leaders to have an enduring and fruitful ministry.

Our desire is that all who attend will find rest, renewal and biblical encouragement and leave with practical solutions for productive ministry.

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Coming Events...

September 29	Advent Christian Village 5th Sunday Offering
Christmas in October	October
Pastor Appreciation Month	October
BICS Sunday	October 27

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.