

Toolkit of Resources for Pastors & Staff



*Bless
your
Pastor*





Join the movement to *show* and *share* God's love to pastors!

Bless Your Pastor is a national generosity movement sponsored by the National Association of Evangelicals for churches of all denominations and affiliations across America. It is an opportunity for all church congregations and Christians to discover creative ways to care for their shepherds and church staff members.

National studies show that many pastors work long hours faithfully serving their congregations. But due to limited funds in church budgets, they are often not properly compensated and face real financial struggles and hardships. Bless Your Pastor focuses on resourcing church leaders to disciple their people in generous living that leads to transformed hearts and generous spirits. The campaign will guide believers to relieve some of the financial and emotional pressures that pastors often feel as a result of their sacrificial service to their churches. Many churches will decide to extend the campaign to church staff members in addition to their pastors.

The Bible instructs believers and churches in 1 Thessalonians 5:12 to “Make sure that you *show* your deep appreciation for those who cherish you and diligently work as ministers among you.” And, Galatians 6:6 says, “The one who receives instruction in the Word should *share* all good things with their instructor.”

While we have some valuable free resources in this Pastors & Church Staff Toolkit to help you personally, the heart of this movement is to encourage, empower and equip church boards and leaders to organize a Bless Your Pastor effort at their churches. To do this, we have developed a short leadership training video and a Bless Your Pastor Church Toolkit with free ready-to-use resources. When the lay leaders at your church use the Bless Your Pastor video and materials, they can help unleash joyful and creative generosity, practical help, and financial support that will greatly benefit and bless you and church staff families for years to come.

We recognize that as a pastor or church staff member, you cannot be the organizer of this Bless Your Pastor effort. In our training video for church leaders, we share that this is a behind-the-scenes effort that needs to be coordinated by lay leaders working with the administrative or communications people at your church. Treat this as if a group of leaders were planning a special birthday party for you. You would show up for the party, but you would not be involved in organizing it!

See the following pages for the FREE materials for church leaders and congregations to bless their pastor and church staff and for resources you can use personally.

We trust God will use the Bless Your Pastor movement at your church and thousands of other churches across America to unleash generosity and creative provisions, so you and others are loved and cared for well.

RESOURCES

Bless Your Pastor Materials for **Church Boards and Leaders**

These resources are designed to help your church board or leadership team launch and spark excitement for a Bless Your Pastor effort at your church. Click on the **bold blue text** to review any of these materials.

1) **50 Creative Ways to Show and Share God's Love for Pastors and Staff**

A version of this list, which you can preview on Page 4, is used by church boards/leaders to distribute to church families during the behind-the-scenes Bless Your Pastor effort.

2) **Training video for your church leadership team (7 minutes)**

This short training video shares key Scriptures and how church board and lay leaders can organize the Bless Your Pastor effort so families in the congregation will *show* and *share* God's love for their pastor and staff.

3) **Bless Your Pastor Church Toolkit**

This Church Toolkit is designed to make it easy for your church leaders to launch and spark excitement for the Bless Your Pastor effort at your church and includes 5 Simple Steps, a timeline, free downloadable materials, information for leaders to collect an Appreciation Offering, and Best Practices to properly care for pastors and staff.

4) **\$150 Amazon Gift Card**

For churches that participate in the Bless Your Pastor movement and report taking up an Appreciation Offering, we will send the senior pastor a \$150 Amazon gift card to be an additional blessing.

After reviewing these materials, please share the **BlessYourPastor.org** website with a trusted church lay leader, so they can download a free copy of the Bless Your Pastor Church Toolkit to review and consider using at your church.



RESOURCES

Bless Your Pastor Materials for **Pastors & Church Staff**

Whether or not your church participates in the Bless Your Pastor movement (although we hope they do!), it is a joy for us to be able to offer you and others you know the following FREE resources. Click on the **bold blue text** to access any of these materials.

1) **God Is Your Provider Personal Finances Online Training**

This six-session at-home interactive training will give you access to teaching and resources by some of America's leading Christian financial speakers, authors and experts. This course will help you discover the Best Practices and valuable money saving resources to improve your financial health regardless of your age or income.

[4-minute overview video](#)

[Course overview PDF](#)

[Best Practices Worksheet](#)

[Link to sign up for online course](#)

For pastors who complete this course, they will be eligible to receive a grant-funded Amazon gift card when the course is completed.

2) **Generous Life Devotional**

The Generous Life devotional is designed to help you experience God's generosity and discover true contentment and joy. It offers 40 days of biblical insights on generosity and giving, as well as weekly inspirational articles, practical worksheets and discussion questions. The devotional is ideal for personal, small group and churchwide use.

3) **LifeWay Research Compensation Study**

4) **NAE Financial Health**

The NAE Financial Health website (**NAEfinancialhealth.org**) provides solutions for pastors and church through assessment surveys, resources and online training on personal finances, pastor compensation, and church generosity.

This 50 Ways list is available in several formats, including versions to “Bless Your Pastor” and “Bless Your Pastor & Staff.” Formats include: a one sheet, half sheet and tri-fold brochure. Each format is available in black/white and in color.

FAITHFULLY PRAY

The best way to help your pastor and church staff is to 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 them know how God is specifically using them to bless, help and teach you to follow God.
- Remember their birthdays and anniversaries with a card, gift or social media post.
- Show appreciation for their strengths and give grace in their weaknesses.

FREEDOM

- Give their spouses the freedom to be themselves and to find their own niche at the church.
- Let their children “be kids,” care about them, and pray for them.

FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FUN

- Prepare meals or baked goods for them (ask about favorite meals or certain foods to avoid).
- Give them gift cards for restaurants, fast food or coffee shops.

- Give them food from your garden, orchard, hunting or fishing trips.
- Invite them and their families to your home or a restaurant for a meal.
- Invite them and their families 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 and staff members sports, concert or event tickets.
- If you have a vacation home, timeshare, recreational vehicle or camping gear, offer to let them use it.
- Share frequent flyer miles that can be used for conferences, vacation, mission trips or holiday travel.
- Offer them the use of your dependable vehicle 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 or church staff members will need to cover (e.g., parts for a car repair or materials for home repair).

FINANCES

Faithfully give to your church, so your pastor and church staff can be properly compensated. Beyond the church salary, the Lord may prompt certain individuals to provide personal funding to help with any of the following items:

- Bless Your Pastor & Staff offering
- Marriage 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 or church staff members. Also, be sure they are in good condition and will not need costly repairs.

Note: Please be prepared to graciously allow your pastor or church staff 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.