

Bless your Pastor

The Bless Your Pastor Campaign

Bless Your Pastor is a national generosity campaign of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) with support from Lilly Endowment Inc. This campaign is an opportunity for church congregations from all denominations across the United States to discover ways to creatively *show* and *share* God's love for their pastor and church staff.

Facts & Stats About Pastors in the United States

National research by the [NAE](#), [LifeWay](#) and [InTrust](#) reveals:

- Many pastors work 50-70 hours per week and have earned master's degrees.
- 80 percent serve in churches with less than 200 members.
- 90 percent feel financial stress.
- 50 percent make under \$50k per year.
- 62 percent do not receive church retirement benefits.
- 59 percent do not receive health care from their churches.
- 30 percent have unpaid student loans (averaging \$36k).
- 25 percent have unpaid medical bills (averaging \$7k).

50%
OF PASTORS

MAKE LESS THAN
\$50,000/YEAR

62%
OF PASTORS

DO NOT RECEIVE
RETIREMENT
BENEFITS FROM
THEIR CHURCH

MEDIA FACT SHEET

Interested in an interview, story or article?

Brian Kluth lives in Denver, Colorado, and is available 24/7 for live or pre-recorded interviews by phone, video or in person (willing to travel). Contact Media@BlessYourPastor.org or 303.346.5332.

Bless Your Pastor Partnership Opportunities

We have free partner resources (e.g., co-branded Bless Your Pastor webpage, media interviews, social media posts, articles and graphics) for any of the following groups that want to promote this effort in their networks.

- TV and radio stations/programs
- Publications, websites, blogs and podcasts
- Denominations and clergy networks

Free Resources for Churches

- 8-minute video training for church boards/leaders
- Toolkit for organizing this behind-the-scenes effort
- [50 Ways to Show God's Love to Your Pastor](#) brochure
- Lay leaders template letters and emails
- Additional training resources
- Amazon eGift card for senior pastors

Media Interviews With National Spokesperson

Brian Kluth is the national director for NAE Financial Health. He is also a pastor, inspirational and experienced public speaker, best-selling author, and seasoned radio and TV guest.

[Download his full media bio.](#)



Bless Your Pastor FAQs

1. Why was Bless Your Pastor created?

Most people do not realize that many pastors face significant financial challenges. With this in mind, the NAE was given a generous grant to launch a nationwide Bless Your Pastor campaign to *show* and *share* God's love for their pastors.

The Scriptural mandate for this effort comes from 1 Thessalonians 5:12 (TPT) that says, "Make sure that you *show* your deep appreciation for those who cherish you and diligently work as ministers among you," and Galatians 6:4 (ESV) says, "Let the one who is taught the Word *share* all good things with the one who teaches."

2. What is Bless Your Pastor?

Bless Your Pastor is a national campaign to encourage, empower and equip churches to bless their pastors and church staffs.

The BlessYourPastor.org website offers free resources to help congregations creatively *show* and *share* God's love for pastors and church staff members. Anyone can download the materials to share with their church leaders and congregation. There is also a short training video for church leaders and brochure that can be given to every family in the church, among many other resources.

This campaign also encourages churches to receive special appreciation offerings for their pastors by the end of this year. Some churches may choose to extend this initiative to church staff members as well. When a church lets us know they took up a special offering for the pastor, we will send their lead pastor an Amazon eGift card to be an extra blessing.

3. Most Christians put money in the offering plate and think their pastors are being taken care of financially. Is that true?

Many churches have limited budgets and are not able to properly compensate their pastors and staff members. The NAE's research found that 50 percent of pastors across the United States earn under \$50,000, and about 60 percent of pastors do not receive retirement, health care, or other benefits from their churches.

4. Many Christians see pastors on TV, hear them on radio or read their books and assume that all pastors are rich and ministering to thousands. Is

this true? How big are most churches in America today?

There are over 350,000 churches in America, but only 1,300 churches have 2,000 or more in attendance. NAE research found that 80 percent of the churches surveyed have under 200 members and 55 percent have less than 100.

5. If pastors are given so little in their paycheck, how are they making it?

Two primary ways. First, they make a lot of personal sacrifices to serve God and their congregations. They often drive older cars, shop at thrift stores, don't go out to eat, and don't take vacations. Some enroll in government programs. Second, many of them also get by through the extra love and material support they receive from caring families in their congregations.

6. What do you mean about love and material support from their congregation?

Brian Kluth, national director of NAE Financial Health, took a \$70,000 pay cut to become a senior pastor when he was 45 years old. His congregation provided a lot of love to his family. Some examples include free or low-cost medical care, an annual Christmas offering, food gift cards, use of people's vacation homes, money to help them buy a car, baby sitting for their kids, and much more!

7. Why is it necessary to launch a national Bless Your Pastor movement?

We need to mobilize and empower Christians, church leadership boards, and churches to do this for their pastors (and church staffs). Pastors are not able to ask for this. Church boards need basic training and tools to help their congregations do this well.

8. Apart from financially giving to the church, what are other ways someone can bless his or her pastor?

The [50 Ways to Show God's Love to Your Pastor](#) brochure shows how it is all about sharing good things God has given you with your pastor — your skills, abilities, resources, etc. If you love kids, help watch your pastor's children. If you're good at fixing cars, offer to do repairs. Look for ways to intentionally show and share God's love.