

Over 50 Creative Ways to

Bless *your* Pastor

Across America and the world, pastors and their spouses faithfully serve and love the people in their congregations. National research shows that most pastors and their families are operating with limited financial resources to meet their family's current and long-term needs.

Fortunately, God is bigger than church paychecks and has many ways he can provide for his shepherds through the generosity of God's people.

Galatians 6:6 says, "The one who receives instruction in the Word should share all good things with their instructor." The Bless Your Pastor initiative is an opportunity for your church to take seriously the call to care for your pastor. It is designed to encourage you to find creative ways to Bless Your Pastor this week, this month and well into the future.

FAITHFULLY PRAY

The best way to help your pastor is to regularly 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, courses and books
- Leadership skills

FONDNESS

- Let the pastor know how God is specifically using them to bless, help and teach you to follow God.
- Remember your pastor's birthday and anniversary with a card, gift or social media post.
- Show appreciation for your pastor's strengths and give grace in their weaknesses.

FOOD, FELLOWSHIP AND FUN

- Prepare a meal or baked goods for them (ask about favorite meals or certain foods to avoid).
- Give your pastor a gift card for restaurants, fast food or coffee shops.
- Give your pastor's family food from your garden, orchard, hunting or fishing trips.
- Invite your pastor and family to your home or a restaurant for a meal.
- Invite your pastor and family to go fishing, sailing, camping or hunting or to the gym, concerts, plays or sporting events. Offer to cover some or all of the costs.
- Offer your pastor's family sports, concert or event tickets.
- If you have a vacation home, timeshare, recreational vehicle or camping equipment, offer to let your pastor use it.

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- Share frequent flyer miles for conferences, vacation, mission trips or holiday travel.
- Offer your pastor 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 will need to cover (e.g., parts for a car repair or materials for home repair).

FREEDOM

- Give your pastor's spouse the freedom to be themselves and to find their own niche at the church.
- Let your pastor's children "be kids," care about them, and pray for them.

FINANCES

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

- Bless Your Pastor offering
- Marriage conference or 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 you could pay forward 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's family. Also, be sure they are in good condition and will not need costly repairs.

Note: Please be prepared to graciously allow your pastor to decline anything 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 you and your family to Bless Your Pastor.

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