

The PIPE Line (Partners in Prayer / Encouragement)

A Prayer Ministry for Your Pastoral Staff

PURPOSE

Pastor/Congregation relationship is reciprocal

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 "...acknowledge those who care for you in the Lord ..."
1 Timothy 5:17 "...who direct the affairs of the church are worthy of double honor ..."
Galatians 6:6 "...share all good things with their instructor."
Romans 12:4-7 "...so in Christ we, though many, form one body ..."

Prayer is best defense for Pastor and Pastoral Staff in spiritual warfare

Ephesians 6:18 "...always keep on praying for all the saints."
Acts 1:14 "...joined constantly in prayer."
Colossians 4:2 "...devote yourself to prayer."

Pastor and Pastoral Staff Need Positive "Input" to Guard Against Burn-out

Hebrews 3:13 "...encourage one another daily, as long as it is called today..."
1 Thessalonians 5:11 "...Therefore encourage one another and build each other up..."

God is pleased when we show generosity to those in the ministry

Philippians 4:14-18 "...credited to your account...an acceptable sacrifice well pleasing to God..." (A sacrifice of praise is referenced in Lev. 7:11-12)
Hebrews 13:16 "...for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

PRACTICE

Prayer

Establish the PIPE Line as a prayer ministry explicitly to pray for staff.
Staffed by volunteers having a genuine desire to support the Pastor/Pastoral staff in prayer without an ulterior motive or personal agenda. (Managed at direction of staff member or Elder/Deacon Board.) Set specific time to meet to pray.

- ❖ Meet 30 minutes prior to a service time (weekly/bi-weekly/monthly).
- ❖ Meet other day/time at church or in a home.
- ❖ Be consistent.

Be intentional with prayer requests.

- ❖ Staff may share specific requests if they feel comfortable.
- ❖ Pray for the staff individually.
- ❖ Examples: pray for strength, health, wisdom, and/or protection from Satan. Pray for their families. Prayers can be specific without being confidential.
- ❖ Remember the purpose is prayer; not gossip, insider information, or to complain.

Include a reminder to pray for pastor(s) each month in church newsletter/newspaper or on website.

Teach children to pray for pastors by making this a part of Sunday School/Children's church on a regular basis (monthly, quarterly, etc.).

Encouragement

May also include ways to encourage the pastor/pastoral staff.

(Suggestions; sending notes by mail or e-mail, remembering birthdays and anniversaries, etc.)

This can be expanded for the congregation by listing suggestions for encouraging the pastor/staff on website or in newsletter.

Elder Board can schedule and facilitate a yearly Pastor Appreciation Day. Sometimes pastor(s) will resist being honored not realizing congregation has responsibility for the opportunity.