

HONORING OUR
PASTOR WITH

overwhelming
LOVE

Pastor Appreciation

**PROGRAM
GUIDE**

HONORING OUR PASTOR WITH OVERWHELMING LOVE

And we urge you, [brothers and sisters], to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves (I Thess. 5:12-13). NKJV

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Ten Introduction Statements

- 1. Love-focused theme.** The theme for this year's Pastor Appreciation is *Honoring the Pastor with Overwhelming Love*. This theme was selected because it is the foundation of Christianity –“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son” (John 3:16). This is overwhelming love!
- 2. Application of theme.** The pastor serves under God's authority and is commissioned to share His love in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, his ministry is characterized by overwhelming love.
- 3. Marks of overwhelming love.** The Holy Trinity sets forth the pattern for overwhelming love—God gave, Christ suffered, and the

Holy Spirit enables. They set the standard for individuals called to fill the role of pastor, shepherd, and leader.

4. **Posture of the pastor.** The pastor ministers under the standard introduced by the Trinity: accepts the call to give his life for ministry, manifests a willing spirit to suffer, and depends on the Holy Spirit for enablement to serve with overwhelming love.
5. **Purpose of Pastor Appreciation.** The goal of pastor Appreciation is to focus on the unselfish ministry of the pastor and to show how the congregation can partner with him in ministry.
6. **Great opportunity.** Pastor Appreciation offers an excellent opportunity for the congregation to come together to show respect, create unity, and to convey to the community overwhelming love for their pastor.
7. **Positive approach.** In order to maximize the opportunities of an unforgettable Pastor Appreciation emphasis, a positive approach must be taken. This includes detailed planning, enthusiastic promotion, and the involvement of all the people of the church in expressing overwhelming love.
8. **Available resources.** This Planning Guide contains enough ideas and suggestions to develop an impressive Pastor Appreciation event. There are other resources we have created to assist you. Check the extensive list on the Ordering Form.
9. **Build churchwide enthusiasm.** Pastor Appreciation can be one of the most influential events of the year. It can impact each member of the church family and create unity, loyalty, and visionary involvement in conveying overwhelming love.
10. **Planned prayer for impact.** Prayer is an essential part of the planning and promotion. Pastor Appreciation is a spiritual event, it honors the pastor but it also focuses on the health of the church and in bringing church members together to partner with the pastor in being part of a church where the gates of hell cannot prevail against it. It is vital to involve the entire church in prayer that creates overwhelming love.

Ten Unique Qualities of Your Pastor

1. He is called by God to be His representative in leading a local body of believers in living a Christ-centered life.
2. He is a 24-hour servant-leader to guide church members in following God's plan of abundant life as outlined in His Word.
3. He is committed to teaching eternal truths in such a compassionate manner that individuals will be open to receive, comprehend the message, and apply the principles for transformation and thanksgiving.
4. He leads in organizing discipleship programs and activities that guide members in understanding the full scope of the involvement of the local church in the Great Commission.
5. He prioritizes the admonition of Christ, "...Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37, 39), in planning worship services and in demonstrating spiritual leadership.
6. He understands the value of developing lay leaders and sets forth and develops ongoing approaches to train individuals to become active and accountable in the ministries of the local church.
7. He loves children and stresses loyalty in cultivating a covering for them by providing age-level trained leaders, inviting facilities, and nurturing skills for parents.
8. He guards the young people of the church and sets in place guiding principles to develop their faith and to shape them for future leadership.
9. He has a vision for the church to have a positive image that influences community life through involvement in civic projects, involvement in ministries to assist the poor, distressed and needy.

10. He has a worldview of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ and sponsors strategies including intercessory prayer, financial support, and mission trips.

Ten Values of Pastor Appreciation

1. It brings the entire church family together to focus on the vital role of the ministry of the pastor.
2. It builds a bridge that connects the pastor and the people in viewing God's mission for the church.
3. It fosters a spirit of teamwork as the leadership role of the pastor is highlighted, embraced, and honored.
4. It creates unity in Kingdom ministry as the church family comes together in love to celebrate God's gift and ministerial guidance.
5. It teaches children to honor those over them in the Lord and to follow their example of commitment and life-developing teaching.
6. It guides young people to understand spiritual leadership and the goal of helping shape them in the likeness of Jesus Christ.
7. It reflects the character of the church by "giving honor to whom honor is due" and by bonding together in the work of the Lord.
8. It forms a platform of trust, respect, and ministry vision on which the church can build for great effectiveness in developing fully devoted followers of Christ.
9. It provides a pathway to create esteem and honor for all the workers of the church and to show the impact of creative togetherness for church growth.
10. It reveals the stature of the church in providing a model of harmony, compassion, and cooperation that influences the people of the community.

Ten Facts to Remember in the Planning Process

1. Purpose to make planning a priority. Giving attention to details will result in sponsoring Pastor Appreciation with flair, teamwork, and impact.
2. Form a Planning Team to bring the different elements of the promotion together—activities, assignments, and advertising.
3. Utilize the theme “Honoring the Pastor With Overwhelming Love” and develop unique ways to present the message of love.
4. Recruit as many people as possible to be involved in carrying out the different aspects of the program.
5. Prepare a checklist to ensure that all areas of the promotion are being covered and that assignments are being carried out.
6. Involve the congregation. Provide information about the activities of Pastor Appreciation and how they can be supportive.
7. Advertise Pastor Appreciation—mail-outs, posters, church bulletins, announcements, and newspaper interviews or ads.
8. Conduct practice sessions regarding all aspects of the different presentations, performance assignments, and physical arrangements.
9. Secure support materials early. An impressive array of items are available to enhance effectiveness. A list is included in this Planning Guide.
10. Remember the power of prayer in the planning, procedures, and performance. God desires to bless in honoring the pastor because it relates to the Great Commandment (love) and the Great Commission (making disciples).

Ten Advertising Avenues

The approach to advertising depends on the size of the church, the location, and available media outlets. However the key principle is to think—to think big, to think about possibilities, about opportunities, and to think creatively. Ten advertising avenues are listed to “think on”, and to consider.

1. **Church bulletin.** Begin promotion early and list events and involvement opportunities. An attractive colorful bulletin insert has been designed and can be ordered along with other support materials.
2. **Church webpage.** List all of the events on the webpage along with testimonies of expectation from selected church members.
3. **E-mail message.** Send regular messages about the reasons for, the rewards of, and the stirring results of pastor appreciation.
4. **Direct mail.** Plan to send at least one announcement of the activities of Pastor Appreciation by mail. Direct mail helps create awareness, excitement, and great expectations.
5. **Sign on church lawn.** A large informative sign on the church lawn attracts attention, reminds church members, and informs the community.
6. **Bulletin board.** Utilize the church bulletin board to keep church attendees informed. Begin early and change the message every Sunday.
7. **Classroom posters.** Display posters in hallways and classrooms. Ask children and youth to design their own posters. This will add “wow” and a plus for promotion.
8. **Pulpit announcements.** For several Sundays before Pastor Appreciation have different members of the Planning Team share information about a particular aspect of what has been planned.

9. **Tweeting and blogging.** Get members involved in these two avenues of communicating about events and getting involved.

10. **Radio and television.** In some areas there is free advertising on both radio and television. Don't overlook the media possibilities. Also, brief radio/television announcements can be effective and cost allowable.

Ten Points to Include In the Preparation Checklist

- Organize a Planning team to direct all of the functions.
- Consider all the program ideas outlined and order support material.
- Enlist volunteers to work with the Planning Team to be responsible for the different functions.
- Begin promotion early. Study the opportunities listed under Advertising Avenues.
- Outline the Sunday morning worship and recognition service. This is the center of Pastor Appreciation and it must be balanced, joyful, and impactful.
- Decide on special gifts, activities, and meal functions. Place orders, secure services, and make assignments.
- Contact special guests, friends, and relatives of the pastor. Provide information about the program and events. Verify that assignments are being carried out—advertising activities, contacts, and correspondence.
- Review all of the events that have been planned. Rehearse planned action and make sure all the people involved are on the same page and in step with each other.
- Pray for all who are involved in the preparation, the special

appreciation activities, and that God will provide special blessings for the pastor, his family and the church body.

Ten Steps in Outlining the Sunday Morning Service

The size of the church will determine the nature of the Sunday morning service. In many churches Sunday morning will be the major feature of Pastor Appreciation. In other churches the main events will occur during the week and Sunday morning expressions will be limited. In either case, the Sunday morning features should capture the attention and affection of those in attendance.

1. **Structure.** Decide on the features to be included in the service—special presentations, music, responsive reading, gifts, testimonies, expressions by children and youth, sermon, and time allotments.
2. **Program.** Make a list of the individuals who will take a leading role in the service. Prepare an outline of what is expected from them and the time frame allotted for their participation.
3. **Recognition.** Arrange for a proclamation from the office of the major or other city/county officials.
4. **Guests/Letters.** Invite relatives and friends of the pastor to attend the appreciation service. Also, extend an invitation to community/city leaders. Ask special friends and leaders to send letters of appreciation. Some of these can be read during the service. Letters and citations should be placed in a special album and presented to the pastor during the service.
5. **Music.** The musical package should be arranged around the various expressions to the pastor. The songs/choruses should blend with the various appreciation features. Music that is special to the pastor should also be included.

6. **Expressions.** Key leaders of the church should be given the opportunity to express appreciation to the pastor on behalf of different entities of the church—men, women, youth, and children.
7. **Offering.** In some cases the Sunday morning offering will be given to the pastor. In many other churches the special Pastor Appreciation envelope would have been distributed in advance and given in the offering on this Sunday. Special gifts to the pastor and his family will be presented following the offering.
8. **Gifts/Responsive Reading.** After the presentation gifts, the Responsive Reading will take place.
9. **Ideally a lay-person should speak on loving, supporting, and standing with the pastor.** Often two or three church members speak for five to seven minutes each. On some occasions a special guest speaker is invited. The speaker will conclude the sermon/talk with the following statement:

Pastor, we will minister with you with overwhelming love by:

- Standing with you in prayer.
- Standing by you in fulfilling the Great Commission.
- Standing for you in the Quest for Trust.

10. **Prayer.** Following the sermon, the pastor and his family are asked to come forward. The pastor's council or elders of the church will pray over them---for family happiness, physical health, unity in the church, and spiritual and numerical growth. The service will conclude with the following pledge:

Love Pledge By the Congregation to the Pastor

Pastor we pledge:

- To surround you and your family with overwhelming love!

- To maintain a lifestyle as church members that demonstrate overwhelming love!
- To join you in fulfilling the ministries of the church with overwhelming love!
- To express the character of the church to the community/city by supporting social needs with overwhelming love!
- To continually come together in unity to worship with overwhelming love!
- In agreement, we as a committed congregation will embrace this pledge with overwhelming love.

Ten Follow-up Ideas

- Meet with Planning Committee. Express appreciation for their involvement. Review activities and determine the most effective events.
- Send a letter of appreciation to those who made Pastor Appreciation successful.
- Follow-up with responsibilities—expenses, remaining signage, and filing copies of promotion and advertising.
- Contact the pastor and share with him the names of those who worked diligently to make Pastor Appreciation successful.
- Call or correspond with guests and convey appreciation for their presence and expressions.
- Share special results with the sponsor of pastor Appreciation at www.coglifebuilders.com.
- Compile a list of things that went right and things that went wrong

in promoting Pastor Appreciation. That will aid in wise planning for all future activities.

- Express appreciation to individuals in the community/city who contributed to Pastor Appreciation—civic leaders and media.
- Post a message in the church bulletin expressing thanksgiving to the church family for making Pastor Appreciation a day to remember.
- Share with the pastor copies of any of the material, letters, and expressions that would be meaningful to his album of remembrance.

Honoring Our Pastor With Overwhelming Love

(This Responsive Reading is included on the back of the Pastor Appreciation bulletin. Please see the order form located in the guide.)

Responsive Reading

Leader: Our pastor has been called to lead us in understanding the magnitude and scope of God's love in sending His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world as our Savior.

People: We honor the calling of our pastor and will stand with him as a united church family with overwhelming love!

Leader: Our pastor is committed to teaching us the principles of love in our daily walk with Christ.

People: We respect the commitment of our pastor and will respond to his biblical teaching and will stand by him with overwhelming love.

Leader: Our pastor ministers with loving compassion in developing us into fully devoted disciples of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

People: We will embrace the compassionate spirit of our pastor and

will support him in the stewardship and outreach ministries of our church with overwhelming love!

Leader: Our pastor shepherds us with holy convictions based on the foundation of his calling, commitment, compassion, and dedication to see us reflect the love of Christ in daily life.

People: We will affirm the convictions of our pastor and will stand with him, for him, and by him in prevailing prayer, Great Commission obedience, and the Quest for Trust in the spiritual energy and gifts of overwhelming love.

Amen.

Love.

10 Pastor Appreciation Activities

1. Pastor Appreciation Family Celebration Night.
2. Pastor Appreciation Luncheon.
3. Men's Fellowship Breakfast With the Pastor.
4. Women's Tea for the Pastor's Wife.
5. Youth Pizza Time With the Pastor's Children.
6. Daily Treats for Pastor/Family.
7. The Joy of Children
8. Churchwide Love Letters Initiative.
9. Prayer Night for the Pastor.
10. Ten-Day Prayer Emphasis.

Number 1

Pastor Appreciation Family Celebration Nights

This event usually takes place on Friday evening before Pastor Appreciation on Sunday morning. It is a gala function for the entire family—colorful decoration, an upbeat festive program, a display featuring the pastor’s achievements, and a variety of appreciation expressions. Some program ideas to consider are:

- ❑ Fellowship. The event is for the entire family. Therefore the program should include expression opportunities for all ages.
- ❑ Food. Some churches will plan for a complete meal. Others will serve light refreshments. The meal or refreshment should be simple and without charge if at all possible.
- ❑ Program. The program should contain a variety of elements—skits, music, humor, readings, appreciation expressions, and special quests.
- ❑ Gifts. Some churches will choose to present gifts to the pastor at this event rather than on Sunday morning.
- ❑ Proclamation. The family event will conclude by reading the We Love You proclamation.

Proclamation of Love for Our Pastor

In respect and appreciation for our pastor . . .

WE PROCLAIM:

That we will stand with our pastor in doctrinal purity with overwhelming LOVE.

That we will serve with our pastor in Great Commission obedience with overwhelming LOVE.

That we will practice total life stewardship with our pastor with overwhelming LOVE.

That together we will model scriptural LOVE that will influence the unchurched and the character of our community.

On the foundation of love and in the power of the Holy Spirit we set forth this proclamation.

Amen!

Number 2

Pastor Appreciation Luncheon

This activity can take place after the Sunday morning celebration. If possible, the luncheon should be a no charge event. The meal can be catered or families can be assigned to bring certain food items. There should be decorations, a proclamation, and the presentation of gifts.

There are several pledges and proclamations listed in other events that can be used for the luncheon.

Number 3

Men's Fellowship Breakfast With the Pastor

The men of the church meet for breakfast on Saturday morning before Celebration Sunday. Following a big, man-sized breakfast the program should include some of the following items:

- Testimonies of respect and appreciation.
- Sharing of both spiritual and humorous stories.
- Several prayers of appreciation and guidance.
- Presentation of a special gift.
- Reading the We Love You Pledge.

Men's We Love You Pledge

Pastor, we love you as a God-called leader, as a brother in Christ, and as a faithful messenger of God's Word. Our love leads us to PLEDGE:

We will serve with you with overwhelming love as soldiers of the Cross.

We will stand beside you in faith and trust to fulfill God's mission for our church.

We will uphold you in prayer and ask God to keep you healthy, wealthy, and wise.

We will honor you by being steadfast in faith and partnering with you in ministry with overwhelming love.

We make this pledge with faith, hope, and loyalty.

Number 4

Women's Tea for the Pastor's Wife

This event is a special treat for the pastor's wife. It will be hosted in a "high-level" atmosphere—formality, colorful decorations, Sunday apparel, and soft music. The format should include some of the following:

- Expressions of love and respect.
- Stories of support and service.
- Prayers for health and family happiness.
- Honor recognition and special gifts.
- Reading the We Love You Pledge.

Women's Love You Pledge

We love you as our pastor's wife, as a sister in Christ, and as a faithful "Stand by our pastor" helpmate. With a spirit of appreciation we PLEDGE:

We will pray consistently for you and your family—wellness, happiness, and contentment.

We will support you in projects that include the spiritual growth of the women of the church.

We will honor you as our pastor's wife by building a wall of protection and security around you.

We make this pledge with overwhelming love and loyalty

Number 5

Youth Pizza Time With the Pastor's Children

The children of the pastor are a vital part of his ministry. They feel his calling, his compassion, and the pressure of 24/7 service. They need and desire appreciation. Here are some things to consider:

- Make the pizza free and plentiful.
- Outline the program to be free flowing and fun.
- Provide opportunities for appreciation expressions.
- Read the We Love You Pledge.

Youth's We Love You Pledge

We love you as part of our pastor's family, as brothers and sisters in Christ, and as a model of commitment to Christ. With a spirit of appreciation we PLEDGE:

We will express to you overwhelming love.

We will pray for your home-life and school-life.

We will attend church activities with you and accept church assignments with you.

We will grow in Christ with you and develop as mature believers with you.

We will be friends with you that share, grow, and enjoy with each other.

We make this pledge as your friends in faith and love.

Number 6

Daily Treats for Pastor/Family

This unique seven-day expression includes the pastor and his family. Individuals, groups, or families could be responsible for a day. If a meal is involved the pastor's wife should be notified in advance. You can build on the following ideas:

- Monday – Deliver a complete meal to the pastor's home.
- Tuesday – Send flowers to the pastor's wife.
- Wednesday – Prepare candy and other goodies for the pastor's children.
- Thursday – Make arrangements for a fruit basket or a bag of specialty popcorn.
- Friday – Phone in an order for pizza and soft drinks to be delivered.
- Saturday – Throughout the day drop off cakes, cookies, and other treats at the pastor's home.
- Sunday – Plan for a meal at the church or arrange for a meal at a local restaurant for the pastor's family.

Number 7

The Joy of Children

Children always bring joy and laughter to any event. Have the teacher(s) of small children lead them in drawing pictures of the pastor and his ministry. This can be done the week before Pastor Appreciation. Here are some ideas to consider:

- ❑ **Opportunity to teach.** This approach permits an opportunity to teach children about the ministry of the pastor and what it means to them.
- ❑ **Unique expressions.** Children have unique ways to express themselves. Drawing pictures is a means for conveying what they understand and feel.
- ❑ **Involvement privilege.** This will provide a means of belonging, to be connected with big-church events, for children.
- ❑ **Parade of pictures.** There are several ways to display the pictures drawn by children. Post them in the classroom and invite the pastor in to view them. Display the pictures in the church foyer. Conduct a parade of pictures where the children walk across the front of the platform holding their pictures.

Drawing pictures of the ministry of the pastor is a unique way to bring excitement and laughter to Pastor Appreciation.

Number 8

Churchwide Love Letters Initiative

Church leaders, members, youth, and children are encouraged to write an appreciation letter to the pastor. Announcements are made in the church bulletin, in Sunday school classrooms, and in special group meeting regarding the procedure for the letter-writing emphasis.

A love-letters container is placed in the church foyer and in classrooms. Information is provided about the approach, when letters should be completed and deposited in the special container, and how they will be presented to the pastor.

Album(s) should be secured early to display the letters. On the Saturday before Appreciation Sunday the letters should be placed in the album(s). Selected letters could be read during the Sunday morning celebration service. The album(s) will be presented to the pastor during the segment

of the service where he is honored with gifts.

This display of love will be a lifelong keepsake for the pastor.

*And [church members] wrote a letter having this message
(Acts 23:25 Amp).*

Number 9

Prayer Night for the Pastor

This is a special night when the congregation comes together to pray for the pastor. It should be conducted two weeks before Pastor Appreciation Sunday. The objectives of the special prayer service include the following:

- A time for the church to come together in agreement to show the pastor support, submission, and security.
- A time to pray for the pastor's leadership, health, family, and effectiveness.
- A time to emphasize how a greater vision can be developed through consensus, communication, and commitment.
- A time to set forth a plan where church members pray for the pastor every day with love, insight, and fervency.

Plan a simple structure: One hour in length, scripture readings interspersed with prayer, prayer choruses, and special readings on the powerful influence of prayer. Conclude the prayer service with Holy Communion.

Number 10

Honoring Our Pastor With Overwhelming Love

10-Day Prayer Emphasis

Ten days before Pastor Appreciation Sunday the entire church will unite in prayer for the pastor, his family, and the growth of the church.

Each evening around the dinner table church families will pray for the pastor and his family. This will create a churchwide spirit of togetherness and an overwhelming love for the pastor and each other.

Three important areas to include in the prayer initiative:

Pastor – protection, preaching, and relationships.

Family – peace, contentment, and respect.

Church – passion, unity, and outreach.

Constant prayer was offered to God for him
[the pastor] by the church (Acts 12:5 NKJV).

10 Supportive Resources

1. 100 Ways to “Show & Tell “ the Pastor You Love Him
2. Support Form – Honoring Our Pastor With Overwhelming Love
3. Sermon Outline – How to Love Your Pastor With Overwhelming Love
4. Bulletin Insert - Honoring My Pastor With Overwhelming Love
5. Our Pastor Has a Heart of Love
6. Expressing Love to Our Pastor
7. Supporting My Pastor With Overwhelming Love
8. The Power of Pastor Appreciation
9. The Value of Pastor Appreciation
10. Feedback Form – Pastor Appreciation

Resources

100 Ways To “Show & Tell” the Pastor You Love Him

1. Let the pastor dream and be creative.
2. Talk to him; build a relationship of teamwork and trust.
3. Compliment him for timely and compassion-driven sermons.
4. Invite the pastor and his wife to your home for a fellowship meal.
5. Purchase him a new suite.
6. Pray for the pastor and his family by name every day.
7. Say to the pastor, “I’m with you, you can count on me!”
8. Give him scriptural submission according to Hebrews 13:17.
9. Stick with him when you don’t understand his reasoning and approach.
10. Bake the pastor a cake.
11. Volunteer to help him in a special project.
12. Attend church regularly.
13. Send the pastor a humorous card—brighten his day.
14. Look for ways to make the pastor look and feel good.
15. Back him in bouncing the status quo.
16. Defend the pastor against fault-finding.
17. Buy his wife a new dress.
18. Believe with him that God desires to do “new things” in the church.
19. Show the community “love in action” by the way you provide for the pastor and support him.
20. Order him a special book.
21. Organize a Pastor’s Prayer Partners Ministry.
22. Ask friends to attend church with you.
23. Have confidence in the pastor’s motives and abilities.
24. Send flowers to his home with a note of love and respect.
25. Be available and willing to listen to his plans for change and growth.
26. Write the pastor a letter and express love and appreciation for his integrity and leadership.
27. Be a good follower.
28. Sing “Bind Us Together in Love” with him.
29. Send him a fruit basket with a message of love from your family.
30. Help him create and champion visionary plans for church growth.

31. Say to him very often, “Pastor, I’m praying for you!”
32. Give him a gift of a pair of shoes or a shirt and tie.
33. Reveal to him you are willing to submit to his leadership and to be teachable.
34. Don’t criticize the pastor.
35. Let him make mistakes.
36. Be a good listener, let his sermons sink deep.
37. Make him a pan of fudge or candy.
38. Don’t ever say, “We’ve never done it that way before.”
39. Send the pastor to a special conference or seminar.
40. Make sure he has a day off each week.
41. Ask the pastor, “How can I help you?”
42. Encourage the pastor’s wife to be her own person.
43. Be consistent in your witness and work in the church.
44. Be a partner in keeping his freezer stocked with meat and vegetables.
45. Listen to him, let him share his story.
46. Clap for the pastor one Sunday morning as he enters the sanctuary or approaches the pulpit.
47. Pay your tithes consistently.
48. Give the pastor a cost-of-living increase in salary each year.
49. Take him on an outing with you—fishing, golfing, hunting.
50. Agree with him for developing quality and excellence in ministry.
51. Buy into the pastor’s vision, accept ownership.
52. Compliment him for church progress.
53. Help form a Pastoral Concerns Team to provide for the needs of the pastor and his family.
54. Bake the pastor some cookies.
55. Trust the decisions of the pastor.
56. Encourage him with words and works.
57. Help send the pastor and his family on a once-in-a-lifetime vacation.
58. Stand up for his programs.
59. Be aggressive in forming a personal relationship with the pastor.
60. Give him tickets to a special activity.
61. Affirm the pastor’s commitment for change to increase worship involvement and outreach intensity.
62. Support the pastor with your time, talents, tithing, and treasures.
63. Call him on the telephone and convey love and respect for his ministry.
64. Invite him to lunch and let him relax with you.
65. Arrange for a fall or spring housecleaning team for the pastor’s home.
66. Increase his housing allowance.

67. Jump in and assist him on behind-the-scene projects.
68. Plan a churchwide surprise birthday party for him.
69. Stand by him when he is in the line of fire.
70. Help redecorate the pastor's office.
71. Prepare a meal for the pastor and his family.
72. Provide him with retirement benefits and reputable counsel.
73. Plan a church appreciation banquet for the pastor.
74. Refrain from saying, "That will cost too much!"
75. Order a pizza and send it to his home.
76. Honor and respect the pastor.
77. Display a teachable spirit, let the pastor disciple you.
78. Introduce the pastor to a hobby.
79. Give him a love offering.
80. Embrace his focus on discipleship training.
81. Make sure he has adequate health-care coverage.
82. Volunteer to assist in special projects and activities.
83. Offer to assist him with personal things—errands, auto & home repairs.
84. Understand the "glass house" syndrome, encourage the pastor's children.
85. Feature a write-up in the local newspaper about the ministry of the pastor.
86. Participate in Pastor Appreciation activities.
87. Ask the mayor to proclaim a Pastor Appreciation Day in the city.
88. Recommend an increase in salary for him.
89. Present the pastor a plaque recognizing his achievements and honoring his commitment.
90. Support the pastor through action, affirmation, and accountability.
91. Give him a box of candy.
92. Hold up his hands as he leads the flock.
93. Contribute to purchasing new furniture for the parsonage.
94. Listen to the pastor's long-range goals and plans.
95. Subscribe to a ministerial magazine for him.
96. Assist in providing him with membership to a health club.
97. Furnish him with fishing equipment and encourage him to get away from strain and stress.
98. Give the pastor an "I love you" give certificate for a meal or merchandise.
99. Remember the birthday of his wife and children.
100. Help the congregation establish privacy boundaries—see that the pastor has time to be alone with God, time for his family and personal time.

Pastor Appreciation

Honoring Our Pastor With Overwhelming Love

Support Form

Pastor Appreciation Is a Time:

- To honor the calling and ministry of our Pastor.
- To visualize the scriptural mission of the church.
- To participate in the church's expressions of appreciation.
- To celebrate past achievements and future victories.

PASTOR APPRECIATION COMMITMENT

NAME: _____

____ YES, I want to be a part of the Pastor Appreciation events at our church.

____ I will pray, promote, and participate.

____ I am willing to serve as a worker, helper, or leader.

____ Contact me at _____

Signed _____

Sermon Outline

How to Love Your Pastor With Overwhelming Love

Follow the Pattern of Onesiphorus
– Second Timothy –

1. He Cheered Him Up – “The Lord Grant the household of Onesiphorus, For he often refreshed me [cheered me up]” (1:16a).
2. He Held Him Up – “[He] was not ashamed Of my chains [respected me]”(1”16b).
3. He Looked Him Up – “When he arrived in Rome, he sought me out very zealously and Found me” (1:17).
4. He Lifted Him Up – “You know very well How many ways he ministered to me at Ephesus” (1:18).

The love pattern of Onesiphorus can be very effective. Here are four things you can do.

- Refresh your pastor through words of appreciation, respect, and encouragement.
- Stand with your pastor during difficult times.
- Discover your pastor’s needs and help meet them.
- Word side by side with your pastor in ministry.

This Bulletin Insert is one of the Pastor Appreciation support items. Please

see the Order Form at the end of this Planning Guide.

Pastor Appreciation

Honoring My Pastor With A Heart of Overwhelming LOVE

An affirming heart—I will believe in your holy calling.

A loving heart—I will embrace you as my shepherd/leader.

A receptive heart—I will listen to scriptural instructions.

A confident heart—I will follow you in faith and love.

A cheerful heart—I will add sunshine to your ministry.

A visionary heart—I will trust God with bold faith with you.

A supportive heart—I will partner with you in ministry.

A committed heart—I will be faithful in stewardship and service.

Blessed is the man [pastor] that he may dwell in your courts (Psalm 65:4).

Our Pastor Has a Heart of Love

1. He loves to see us mature in Christ.
2. He loves to see children and youth nurtured in the love of the Lord.
3. He loves to lift us up to the Lord in worship.
4. He loves to preach truth that transforms lives.
5. He loves to stress the blessings of stewardship.
6. He loves to emphasize fellowship and teamwork.
7. He loves the down-and-out and the up-and-out.
8. He loves to encourage the lonely and comfort the discouraged.

9. He loves to lead us in sharing Jesus and reaping the harvest.

10. He loves to shepherd us and lead us in enjoying God's unlimited blessings.

And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all . . . (1 Thessalonians 3:12).

Expressions of Love to Our Pastor

Pastor, we love you! You have impacted our lives.

Your **TEACHING** has shown us how to develop the Christ life in full circle.

Your **PREACHING** has unlocked the grace-giving treasures of God's Word.

Your **MODELING** has illustrated the influence of a life of integrity and compassion.

Your **NURTURING** spirit has guided us in demonstrating discipleship maturity.

Your **COMPASSION** has inspired us to a deeper active concern for the unchurched.

Your **LOVING** spirit has revealed the bonus benefits of belonging to a church family.

Your **PROTECTIVE** watch-care has insulated us from the abusive tactics of Satan.

We give thanks to God always for you . . . making mention of you in our prayers (1 Thessalonians 1:2).

Supporting My Pastor With Overwhelming Love

What if every church member supported the pastor just like me; what kind of church would our church be?

Could I be proud of the example I set?

- My devotion to God—receiving His grace and steadfastly running the Christian race with overwhelming LOVE.
- My commitment to church—growing in the likeness of Christ and demonstrating His love in life's daily race with overwhelming LOVE.
- My witness to friends—telling them of God's grace and His goodness to the human race with overwhelming LOVE.
- My loyalty to pastor—partnering with him in the Gospel and walking together in the heavenly race with overwhelming LOVE.

Today I commit that the example I set will:

- Honor God
- Influence friends
- Build the church
- Strengthen my pastor

*And now abide faith, hope, love, these three;
But the greatest of these is love (1 Corinthians 13:13).*

The Power of Pastor Appreciation

- Recognizes God's plan of teamwork in ministry.
- Honors the pastor for vision and dedication.
- Forms awareness among youth of God-appointed leaders.

- Celebrates unity and harmony in the ministries of the church.
- Enriches the fruit of working hand-in-hand with the pastor and church members.

The Value of Pastor Appreciation

- V – Establishes biblical **VIEW** of the position of pastor.
- A – Upgrades **AFFIRMATION** of commitment to pastor.
- L – Advances crucial **LEADERSHIP** roles of pastor/laity.
- U – Strengthens productive **UNITY** in mission of the church.
- E – Creates God-honoring **EXCITEMENT** in performing Kingdom service.

PASTOR APPRECIATION

Feedback Form

Each year we try to improve and make the Pastor Appreciation suggestions and materials more impactful. We need your assistance. Please take time to complete this form and return it to IPHC Men's Ministries Office.

We utilized the activities/materials listed.

Meal Functions (list)

Recognition Service (list)

Promotion (list)

Gifts (list)

Material From This Manual Used (list)

Materials Ordered From IPHC Men's Ministries (list)

Share Creative Concepts You Developed

Name or identification of church is optional.

Mail to: IPHC Men's Ministries
Global Ministries Center
P.O. Box 12609
Oklahoma City, OK 73157

“And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their works sake. Be at peace among yourselves.”

1 Thess. 5:12-13 NKJV

This Program Guide Includes:

- ◆ Positive Planning
- ◆ Checklist
- ◆ Ideas for special expressions
- ◆ Complete details for Pastor Appreciation Sunday
- ◆ Detailed Sunday morning sermon
- ◆ Plus lots more

Order These Awesome Support Materials

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