

## ***Bless Your Pastor* Media Tour, Interviews & Pastor Events**



The *Bless Your Pastor* movement, sponsored by the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) through a generous grant, has been spreading across the nation over the past three years. Over 2,500 churches have participated and collected nearly \$1.6 million dollars (\$640 per church) in appreciation offerings for their pastors and church staff. In addition, the NAE has also provided nearly \$600,000 in Amazon gift cards to senior pastors. This free program encourages, equips and empowers Christians and churches to properly prepare for *October Pastor Appreciation Month*.

### **What the Numbers Say: Many Pastors Are in Crisis and Need Our Care**

National research has shown that pastors face very real personal and financial challenges.

- An all-time high 42% of pastors have seriously considered leaving full-time ministry this past year!
- 90% of pastors are experiencing financial stress.
- 83% of pastors had to provide both in person and online worship services to care for their flock.
- 60% of pastors receive no retirement, health care or employee benefits.
- 50% of pastors are paid under \$50,000 while working 50 to 70 hours every week.
- 40% of pastor spouses serve the church 20 or more hours per week, normally without any pay.

### **Solution: Easy as 1-2-3 Bless Your Pastor Materials, Interviews & Events**

The [BlessYourPastor.org](http://BlessYourPastor.org) website offers 3 easy steps to help churches appreciate their pastor. The [Easy as 1-2-3 Plan](#) (and in [Spanish](#)) includes a list of [50 Ways to Bless Your Pastor & Staff](#) to give Christians practical ideas on caring for their pastor. For participating churches that do all 3 steps, the pastoral staff will be given \$350 Scholarships to a *Family Life Weekend to Remember Marriage Retreat*, pastor retreat and vacation opportunities, and senior pastors of newly participating churches will receive a grant-funded \$200 Amazon gift card.



To help media ministries spread the word about the Bless Your Pastor free materials, Brian & Mary Ellen Kluth are traveling in their RV motorhome through over 100 cities. This year, they will be going through over 40-cities in western states (CO, UT, WY, MT, WA, OR, CA, AZ) to do station visits and interviews. Upon request, Brian and Mary Ellen are also offering grant-funded [Pastor Appreciation Events](#).

- **Experienced media spokesperson:** Brian Kluth has been interviewed or featured over 200 times on media outlets, including K-Love, Salem, Moody, Christianity Today, Outreach, USA Today, WORLD, CBN, NPR, AP, Christian Post, CBS, NBC and many television and radio talk and drive-time programs.
- **15-30-60 Second PSA's and Social Media Graphics:** At the [BlessYourPastor.org/dropboxmaterials](http://BlessYourPastor.org/dropboxmaterials) webpage media outlets can access PSAs for on-air announcements and Bless Your Pastor logos, graphics and videos for eNewsletters and social media posts.
- **Behind-the-scenes story:** Kluth learned that God has many ways to care for pastors through their congregation when his first wife went through an 8-year cancer journey. This experience inspired him to write the list of [50 Ways to Bless Your Pastor & Staff](#) and to help lead this much-needed movement.

## 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.*