

“Appreciate Your Pastor”

Rev. David J. Bauer

She had moved away from our church with her family and was attending another church about 25 miles away. I hadn't seen her for probably over half a dozen years, but remember her mostly as a pre-school girl, who I had greeted and talked to at least once a week in church and in other settings. We had a special music concert on Palm Sunday evening. Flyers were sent out far and wide. Visitors came and so did her family.

After the service she wanted to talk with me. She was now about 17 years old and had grown into a most beautiful dark haired young lady. What could it be she wanted to discuss, I wondered? As we walked into an isolated corner of

our church hall, with a most sincere look upon her face she faced me and said, “Pastor, I just wanted to say thank you for being my pastor as I was growing up. I have not found anyone like you in any of the churches we have attended. You made a difference in my life and I will never forget things you have taught me!” Her sincere compliment brought tears to my eyes. And that was a moment of love and gratitude I will never forget!

Of course October is “Pastor Appreciation Month.” With the “pandemic” and churches partially open, I do not know how many churches will celebrate their appreciation for their pastor. During my years as pastor, our church would try to “surprise” me each October. They wouldn't even reveal the date of their surprise. I would come to church with a sermon prepared for the day. The deacons would tell me to take a seat next to my wife in the pew. They would then take over. Of course it was a great joy sitting next to my wife, since that was not possible most of the other Sundays. We would be publicly recognized and my wife would be given a corsage or a nice bouquet of flowers. A church representative would hand us a card with a generous love offering inside collected weeks in advance. After the service we would be treated to a great meal of church pot-luck dinners. And wow! Did we ever have good cooks in our church back in the day! Don't know if that will ever be the norm in most of our churches, and we sure do miss it.

The church folks there did love us and they had many ways of showing it! Through the years I would be given many gifts that people thought were special. I had so many plaques hanging on my office wall, that there was seldom room for any more. I was given more than ten copies of “Footprints in the Sand” in many backgrounds from well-meaning ones who just wanted to do something to encourage their pastor. It was somewhat of a challenge trying to display all of them, so as to not slight

any of the well wishers. Colorful plaster casts were also plentiful, from Bible bookends, crosses and praying hands, to any other religious symbol that an admirer thought might be unique. All these were given by loving people who were trying to demonstrate care for their special pastor. I was called into the pastorate by a 100% vote of members, and have no doubt that if a vote was taken the year I left the pastorate it would have reflected something similar. Dolores and I felt their love in many ways; and we acknowledged this as well. I still believe there is no higher calling than to be an under-shepherd of a flock in church: A Pastor! I loved being the “pastor!”

But how do we show our appreciation for our pastor? Are gifts appropriate? I believe they are, according to 1 Corinthians 9. Pastors are called by the church to spiritually lead by word and example, faithfully proclaiming God's Word to the next generation of Christians. It is a noble profession and we work hard; we should receive adequate compensation as well. Since most pastors in local churches are underpaid, gifts of money are always appreciated. Do go lightly on plaster casts, plaques and coffee cups with “A Pastor” printed on the side. The thought is appreciated, but pastor has to display all of these so as to not slight any of his admirers.

I believe that the greatest gift any church person can give a pastor is proof that he has made a difference in their life. That is what we are here for to bring folks to a saving knowledge of our Savior and to train them to serve Him. Then we are doing the “Great Commission” –discipleship! And this is our medal of success. This cannot be measured in money or in gifts of love.

So do express in your own words how your pastor has made a difference in your life. Do think this through and write it down in a loving card. Honor your pastor and treat him as reverent for the important responsibility he has. The Apostle John writes: “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth” –3 John 4. This would be a pastor's greatest joy.



Rev. David J. Bauer, Director
& Dolores Bauer,
Office Assistant

favorite RECIPES

Beans & Berries

(We're counting on you to bring these beans to the next family picnic or get-together.

Don't let the unusual combination of ingredients discourage you from baking this bean dish. Just make it and don't tell anyone what's in it until everyone tells you how good it tastes!)

You Need:

1-lb can regular Cranberry Sauce

1-lb can regular Pork & Beans

To Do:

Mix ingredients together and bake uncovered in an 8" X 8" pan for 1 hour at 350 degrees. Yummy!

Taco Pie

1 Package refrigerator Crescent Rolls

1 pound Hamburger

1 package Taco Mix

1/3 cup sliced Green Stuffed Olives

¼ cup Water

6 slices American Cheese

1 Package Corn Chips

1 cup Sour Cream

Brown meat and drain grease. Add Taco Mix, Water and Olives. Simmer 5 minutes. Place crescent rolls flat in the bottom of a 9" pie pan for a crust. Cover with a layer of Corn Chips. Top with meat mixture. Spread Sour Cream over top Add more Corn Chips and bake 30 minutes at 375 degrees. Garnish with shredded Lettuce, Tomatoes or Avocado slices.



Cutting Boards: To disinfect a plastic cutting board after it has been washed, place it in a solution of Hydrogen Peroxide and water. Soak for at least 10 minutes. Rinse thoroughly, drain and let air-dry.

Kitchen sinks and Drains: Clean stainless steel sinks with a mixture of 3 percent Hydrogen Peroxide and a little warm water. Allow the solution to sit a few minutes. Rinse with warm water and wipe clean.

Pour some Hydrogen Peroxide down kitchen drainpipes periodically to keep them free of germs and odors.

Water Bottles: Add about ¼ cup of Hydrogen Peroxide to a water bottle to clean and refresh it. Swirl the Peroxide around in the bottle. Fill the remainder with water and let sit for an hour or so. Rinse well with clean water.

Charitable giving nationwide is estimated at 264.58 billion dollars. These numbers are going up as contributions have increased since the COVID-19 epidemic.

71% of all giving was by individuals.

5% was given by corporations.

12% went to human services non-profits.

73% of all charitable giving was to faith-based organizations.

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P. O. Box 272 - Hinsdale, Illinois 60522

708-579-3800/3801 djbauer101@gmail.com



Bible Related Ministries Newsletter

Rev. David J. Bauer, Director



"Now thanks be unto God, who always causes us to triumph in Christ, and makes manifest the savor of His knowledge by us in every place."
-2 Corinthians 2:14

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Hinsdale, IL 60522**

Rev. David J. Bauer's October Itinerary



Oct. 11 Emmanuel Bible Church, Missions Conference, Berwyn, IL 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

NOTE: Call us for scheduling a preacher to come to your church. We have several good pastors waiting for a call to go out and preach. Do call us!

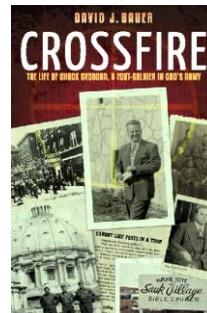
On the Lighter Side: "The Jewish Atheist"

On the Upper West Side lived an assimilated Jew who was a militant atheist.

But he sent his son to Trinity School because, despite its denominational roots, it was a great school, and completely secular.

After a month, the boy came home and said casually, "By the way Dad, do you know what "Trinity" means? It means the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit."

The father could barely control his rage. He seized his son by the shoulders and declared, "Danny, I'm going to tell you something now and I want you never to forget it. There is NO trinity! There is only one God! And we don't believe in Him!"



From Cicero Gangland, to Enemy Gunfire, to Church Organization, to Arbitration in Churches... and beyond! The Chuck Svoboda Story & Bible Church History

--- CROSSFIRE ---

Author David J. Bauer - Grace Acres Press
Crossfire is currently available for a Donation
www.BibleRelatedMinistries.org
Box 272, Hinsdale, IL 60522
708-579-3800/3801

BRM Field Report #10

Do pray for us as we travel. We are restricted by COVID-19 rules in restaurants and hotels, as well as real danger in the inner cities. Bullets are flying in Chicago, especially on the weekends. Yet we have a city that needs the gospel like never before. Every nationality is represented in the inner city and we consider it a missionary effort to minister here.

Yet the Lord is working in the midst of all the confusion around us. Several churches have set up "Prayer Stations" outside the church on neighborhood walkways. Those passing by can bring their requests to be prayed for. Faith questions can be answered, free Bibles and good gospel literature available too!

The panic before us has caused a lot of churches to re-invent themselves. Our gospel will not change and doctrine had better not change. But the social distancing and restricted rules have scared a lot of people. Even though most churches are open for public services, many of our people will not come out for fear of the COVID-19. Attendance is lower than before. Successful churches are finding ways of getting outside their walls and into the community.

Pastors are becoming a scarce resource. Less and less men are going into ministry and more of them are exiting the pastorate. The demands of ministry are greater than ever before and the pay is low. A pastor in a small church must wear a lot of different hats. We look for God's people to help with ministry. Fact is, every church member in the pew should be engaged in a church ministry. However, many today are either lazy or have more "important" pursuits, leaving a small percentage of the church doing most of the work. Also, the one hour weekly service is minimally challenging to our people spiritually. 1/168th of our weekly time is not a priority by any definition. We could never learn any trade by working at it for one hour per week. How can we learn to grow spirituality in such a minimal climate? Then we are restricted to how many people we can have in the church sanctuary at one time? Hello?

So it is a discouraging time for our pastors. Do tell your pastor this month how much you appreciate him and are encouraged by him! Your affirmation of him may be what he needs to face a most challenging day.

Sincerely,

Rev. David J. Bauer --Proverbs 4:18