

Katalyst Church



A Revolution of Love

thrive

DON'T JUST SURVIVE

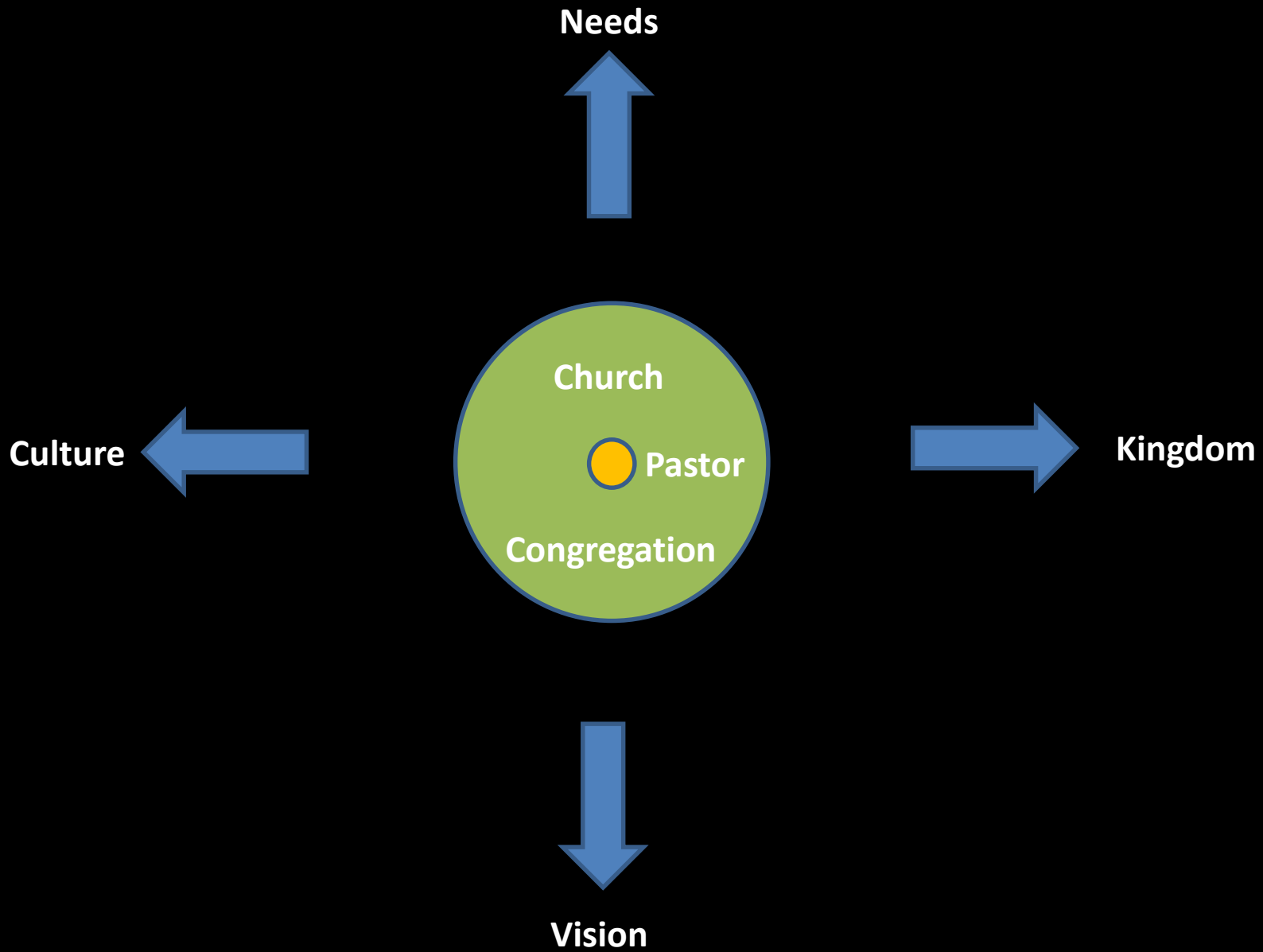


Disclaimer



©2005-2010 Science & Health. All rights reserved.





Needs: Any Church is faced with the challenge to address the issues in our community - The task is monumental/overwhelming
Divorce, separation, addiction, loneliness, sickness

In that endeavour to address needs the Church is fighting against.....

Culture: Increasingly dysfunctional, busyness, non relational, isolation
Overcommitted, stressed, MOD CONS – Plunging further into chaos

Church is seeking to reverse that self centred trend and create a vision of a counter cultural existence anchored in God

Vision: Belonging, fulfilment, purpose, generosity, servanthood, justice, purity, righteousness – Dynamic powerful and influential people

The Church is seeking to model/represent the.....

Kingdom: Radical movement of extreme love, power and grace

Those called to lead the Church are spearheading that charge

So how do we discuss ways to give and get the best out of our Pastors/leaders without it appearing like they are self indulgent or put on a pedestal?

We need to have honest open conversations about the workload, responsibilities that any Leaders carry, not so that we ever denigrate the work of ministry nor to whitewash over the hardships.

The danger of ministry is that individuals are often required to get involved in the messiness and brokenness of life, and to labour in such situations in relative obscurity.

That obscurity unfortunately breeds misunderstanding and the hazard of providing insufficient care



PASTOR **APPRECIATION**
ALL OF THIS MONTH

It can easily makes Pastors appear like Martyrs

Builds up an unhealthy mystique around the pastoral leadership role. Pastors need to be mindful of what they are implying about the men and women they serve when they complain about their jobs. No one appreciates feeling like a burden to others. So pastors who appear exhausted by their job may find a congregation less and less willing to bring forward valid cares and concerns

This can work in mutually reinforcing downward spiral.

If a Church family keeps hearing about the pastor's difficulties and begin to believe that pastoral duties can only be performed by such highly trained and skilled artisans.

People don't think that they can engage - teach, preach, disciple, and counsel others, so they place all of this burden on the pastor, who then complains about the difficult job of adequately performing each of these duties.

It can easily devalue the call on others lives

Pastors who continually complain about the difficulty of their job set poor examples for how Christians ought to approach work as a whole.

Vocational crises often result from a faulty theology of work. We elevate the quest to discover the perfectly fulfilling career above all other purposes of labour, such as fulfilling duty to family or accumulating resources to help expand Christ's kingdom.

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:17

Forbes rated being a Pastor the fifth toughest vocation in the world.

Can you think what Number 1 might have been?

90% of the pastors report working between 55 to 75 hours per week.

80% believe pastoral ministry has negatively affected their families.

33% state that being in the ministry is an outright hazard to their family.

75% report significant stress-related crisis at least once in their ministry.

90% feel they are inadequately trained to cope with the ministry demands.

80% of pastors and 84% of their spouses feel unqualified and discouraged as role of pastors.

70% of pastors constantly fight depression.

70% say they have a lower self-image now than when they first started.

70% do not have someone they consider a close friend.

40% report serious conflict with a parishioner at least once a month.

33% confess having involved in inappropriate sexual behaviour with someone in the church.

50% of pastors feel so discouraged that they would leave the ministry if they could, but have no other way of making a living.

70% of pastors feel grossly underpaid.

50% of the ministers starting out will not last 5 years.

10 % of ministers will actually retire as a minister.

94% of clergy families feel the pressures of the pastor's ministry.

80% of spouses feel the pastor is overworked.

80% spouses feel left out and underappreciated by church members.

80% of pastors' spouses wish their spouse would choose a different profession.

66% of church members expect a minister + family to live at a higher moral standard than them.

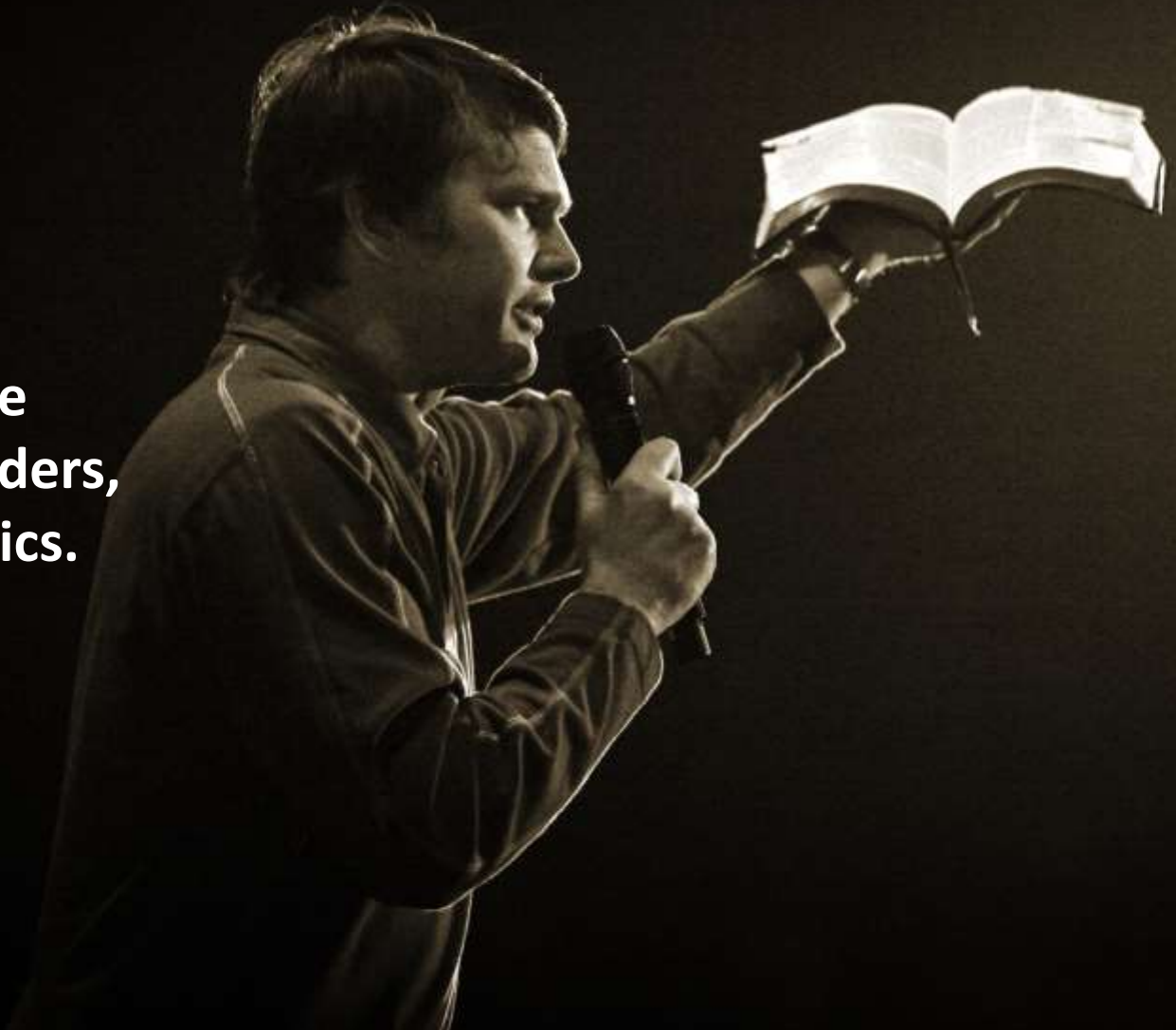
4,000 new churches begin each year and 7,000 churches close.

Over 1,700 pastors left the ministry every month last year.

Pastors are regular, down to earth, flesh and blood human beings. The danger is that we put expectations on them that are completely unrealistic and it's no surprise we are left disappointed.

**They are men
(and women) of God,
they are not God.**

**They fail, they fumble
and they need us to be
their biggest cheerleaders,
not their harshest critics.**





1. THEY'RE FLAWED.

Pastors aren't perfect.

They have their own issues, frailties and challenges. If you knew their story and saw all that they have been through, I am certain you would give more grace and less criticism.

Yes, sometimes they will forget to say hello, preach a lousy sermon and not handle a situation the way you wanted them too.

Be a bigger person and let them off the hook.

Although our God is perfect and all powerful, His servants are not.



Forbes called Driscoll "one of the nation's most prominent and celebrated pastors".

Preaching magazine named him one of the 25 most influential [English-speaking] pastors of the past 25 years.

The New York Times called him "one of the most admired and reviled figures among evangelicals nationwide.

MARS Hill

Acts 29 Church planting movement

2. **THEY FEEL** - The heart of a Dove + The hide of a Rhinoceros

Under all that thick skin, Pastors have feelings too.

They may not show it, but behind the veneer your words have the power to build them up or tear them down.

Ministry can hurt a lot. You give your life for people and some of them spend their time pointing out what you're not doing or things you can do better.

Vulnerable

Guilt ridden: 20-80 Rule

Do not be discouraged do not be dismayed - Joshua 1:9

3. THEY'RE TRYING.

Regardless of what you see on Facebook and the many robust hashtags #lovemychurch #bestdayinthehouse #revivalisnow being a Pastor is a tough gig.

Behind the filter most Pastors are dealing with some incredibly difficult issues. Leading people through divorce, abuse, grief, sickness, mental health issues and family breakdowns as well as managing logistics, services, programs, finances and facilities and not to mention juggling their own marriages and family dynamics.

Not everyone perceives the sacrifice and juggle that comes with it.

Cut your leaders some slack. They're giving more than 110%.
The job that's never finished: One more call, email, visit.....

Spiritual – Emotional – Physical – Mental battle

A person is shown from the chest up, wearing a white sleeveless t-shirt. The t-shirt features a red graphic centered on the chest. The graphic consists of a crown at the top, followed by the words 'KEEP CALM AND LOVE YOUR PASTOR' in a bold, red, sans-serif font, arranged in five lines. The person's arms are visible on either side of the shirt, and they are wearing dark shorts at the bottom.

KEEP
CALM
AND
LOVE YOUR
PASTOR

Sensible

CULTURE OF

HONOR

1. BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

Instead of complaining that you don't have a great kids ministry, why not get in there and make it happen? Instead of walking into Church and saying it's not that friendly, go be friendly! It's not just the Pastors job to meet every need and grow the Church.

His/her job is to equip the saints for the work on ministry. You and I are the saints! It is our responsibility as Christians to make the Bride shine.

Get in there and get your hands dirty! In other words get on a roster, serve somewhere, if you're in the room add value to it!

The 100,000 crowd, desperately in need of exercise, cheering on the 22 on the field who are desperately in need of a rest. Come on let's be the solution!

2. BE RESPECTFUL.

It's ok to disagree, but you don't have to dishonour.

If you have an issues take it the person, don't talk behind their back. Bitterness flourishes in dark places. Bring everything to the light and keep a sweet spirit.

This is not easy when you've been hurt.

Mature Christians learn to show grace even when they have been hurt and show honour even when they disagree.

3. BE REALISTIC.

A pastor can't be good at everything.

They will have particular talents and strengths as well as blind spots and shortcomings. You won't find a man (or woman) who is the greatest preacher, the most organised manager, yet super relational and incredibly sensitive and caring.

Often times these talents and attributes do not exist within one individual. Thus we all have a part to play! Paul wrote in Corinthians that we are all parts of one body, it's our difference and diversity that brings beauty as a whole.

Let your Pastor play to his strengths and find the right people to fill the gaps.

Perceptions and expectations are the two subtle murderers of the Church and it's leaders.

4. BE KIND AND OPEN YOUR HEART.

Stop asking what your pastor can do for you and start asking what you might be able to do for them and your Church?

So often we require so much of our Pastors - their time, their energy, their counsel, their homes.

When was the last time you invited your Pastor over for dinner?

Pastors have literally hundreds of people to care for, maybe we should start looking after them too?

5. GIVE THEM ENTRANCE INTO YOUR LIFE.

One of the most significant initiatives you can take to help your Pastor thrive begins with a simple decision on your part—that of giving him entrance into your heart and life.

Even when you are not able to have long and frequent times of heart-to-heart fellowship with him, determine that you want his input into your life.

Maintain an open spirit, and let your pastor know that you value his input in your life and family at any time and in any way

6. BE A CHEERLEADER NOT A CRITICISER

Most good leaders are well aware of their shortcomings they don't need others to keep pointing it out.



Put wind in His/her sails don't let them flounder in the doldrums

7. BE PROACTIVE

Think about the leaders who have served you.

Did you under appreciate them?

Did you make life miserable for them?

Could you have done more to help them be positive, optimistic, energized, enthusiastic, longevity.

1 Timothy 5:17 (ESV)

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honour, especially those who labour in preaching and teaching.

Hebrews 13:17 (ESV)

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account.

Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 (ESV)

We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work.