



Professional Reimbursement

Early on in my ministry, I organized my salary as a pastor to include professional reimbursement. The government, as well as the church, both recognizes that I should be repaid for some of the expenses that accumulate. This is widely done in the business world, and men and women are reimbursed for expenses which happen as a result of carrying out their responsibilities. Some might object to paying back the pastor for miles he drives and conferences he attends. They lump the figure with the salary.

There are costs incurred in following Christ, and being a disciple. Jesus warned His disciples to be sure to count the cost (Luke 14:25-32). Being a Christian involved in any ministry will have its share of costs. It may cost you loss of family and friends, as well as money. You may forfeit reputation or worldly comforts. It may even cost you your life.

At the end of each month, I submit a report to the church treasurer itemizing my expenses and receive my reimbursement. I look forward to that day because I want to use the money for something else. I was glad to serve the Lord, and to pay whatever cost was involved, but I look forward to being reimbursed.

God also has a reimbursement policy for those who serve Him. In Matthew 19:27, we find Peter asking Jesus about His policy. "Everyone who has left houses and family for my name's sake will receive a hundredfold." Wow!. Reimbursement policies pay back dollar for dollar, but God's payback is 100 times the cost. This policy is not just for pastors, but for everyone. We do have to wait longer than the end of the month, but it's worth it. Isaiah 62:11 says that when He returns, "his reward is with him." In Joel 2:25, God promises to "restore to you the years that the locust have eaten." To Abraham, who was wondering about the cost he incurred, God said, "I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward" (Genesis 15:1). Don't worry about keeping the record. God, who sees in secret, will reward you openly - Matthew 6:9.

God's reimbursement policy is one to look forward to. He will repay far more than our expenses. Serving God makes good investment sense.



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Wedding - August 7th

Courtney Carlson and Ben Donnelly will be married here at First Baptist Church on Saturday, August 7th at 11:00 a.m. The family is planning a private reception. Congratulations to this couple on their life together. Also being married this month is Lori Race in Seneca, Pennsylvania (August 20th at 7:00 p.m.)

Crusader Class Plans Annual Steak Out

The Crusader's Sunday School Class will meet at Brennan's Pond on August 13th for their annual steak out. The yearly favorite will feature some great steaks and even better fellowship.

Sana and Nancy Singh

Our missionaries in India will be here to give a report on their work with Partnership Missions on Wednesday night August 11th. We have supported the Singhs for many years. Come and hear about their new responsibilities.

Third Sunday Sundae - August 22nd

On the third Sunday evening of the month, we will be hosting the third Sunday Sundae. An abbreviated service will be followed by a get together in several homes for ice cream sundaes. People are assigned to a prearranged group for the fellowship time. Get ice cream!



Singspiration at First Baptist

We will host our Annual Salute to Summer Singspiration on August 22nd. Maine West Endicott churches will be joining us for the hymn sing. A light meal is being planned for all after the 6:00 p.m. service.



9/11 Plans are underway for an outreach ministry in our community with a 9/11 service on the Village Green. We plan a patriotic service, as we remember and honor those who died in the attack of 9/11. We hope to leave a witness with all those who attend. Join us for this outreach.



Women Who Worship



Spiritual Somnambulism

"...The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed" (Romans 13:11, NIV).

Are you a somnambulist? Now if you haven't been challenged by a new word in quite some time, go and find your dictionary, blow the dust off of it, and look up the word "somnambulism." (I'm having trouble even spelling it!) This is what you will find: the act of walking or performing any activity (associated with wakefulness) while asleep or in a sleeplike state. Yes, somnambulism is sleepwalking.

The apostle Paul was troubled that some believers were living their Christian lives in a sleeplike state. When they ought to have been walking fully awake, with a sense of diligent purpose, they were going about living for the Lord in a drowsy stupor. This is a spiritual condition that I usually call "going through the motions."

Do you, at times, find yourself going through the motions? I do! In fact, I find myself going through the motions far more often than I should! Sometimes this happens when physical, mental, or emotional tiredness comes upon me due to life's demands. At such times, my spiritual walk deteriorates into a dry routine. I lose my passion for Christ and my deliberate, joyful doing of His work and will. But sometimes this occurs when I just become spiritually lazy. I go into a Christian



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"doze mode" but continue to carry on with my religious "duties." I spend time in the Word. I pray. I go to church. To others, I look spiritually awake, but the Lord sees that I am only sleep-walking. At such times, my spiritual activities are done almost mindlessly and have little meaning or impact on my soul.

When Paul addressed sleepwalking believers, he immediately exhorted them to wake up and walk purposefully. "...Now it is high time to wake out of sleep....Let us walk honestly (Greek: decently; Romans 13:11, 13)." "Awake thou that sleepest....See that ye walk circumspectly (Greek: diligently), not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time" (Ephesians 5:15, 16)." We are not to allow ourselves to stay in this spiritual sleepwalk, but we must rouse ourselves to the walk and work we have to do in the time that remains until our Lord returns.

The dictionary of slang states that somnambulism is a movement toward something without effort. Sisters in Christ, we need to fight off the fleshly tendency toward spiritual sleepwalking. Have you been going through the motions of being a Christian? Are you passionate about living for Christ? Is it time for you to wake up from a spiritual stupor? Set your will to walk with a purpose. The Lord of Life may return this very day. Don't let Him find you sleeping.
Dorothy Davis

Pastor's Desk



VBS is over. It was a great week. We had kids all over the place. Pastor has been doing some research for a tour he's leading to a museum. I told him he should lead a tour to Israel or something. Not a museum. But he doesn't listen to me. He printed up tickets and told people to bring them to church on Sunday. He started the tour of God's Hall of Faith last month, but so far no one has left the auditorium. Some tour. He just talks to people and tells them to come back next Sunday when the tour will continue.



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Where did the summer go? It is August and soon it will get cold and you know what will come, but let's not talk about it now. We've got a lot planned before this summer is over. Sundaes, Singspiration, Singhs, Steaks and your pastor's tour of the museum.

In Tune With



It is said of the early church that "they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart" [Acts 2:42-47]. It was this practice that helped develop generated maturity in the early Christians. Maturity is a matter of the heart. The evidence of a mature heart is found in one's speech, actions and attitudes. In reviewing a list I had made of the evidences of maturity, one word captivated my thinking - regularity. Among Webster's sixteen definitions are these two: "consistent or habitual" and "conforming to a generally accepted rule of conduct". When the Bible talks about regularity it uses the word daily.

REGULAR PRAYER: "Give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6: 11) Prayer for our daily bread means daily prayer. Prayer must become a consistent part of our daily life. To pray without ceasing is an evidence of maturity.

REGULAR BIBLE STUDY: "...and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11b) Spiritual growth is the result of being able to feed on both the milk of the Word and the meat of the Word. The former is only feeding on food others have prepared, while the latter means being able to feed yourself spiritually. Feeding on both the milk and the meat of the Word produces maturity.

REGULAR DISCIPLESHIP: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." (Luke 9:23) We have been called to live for Christ, not for self. He asks us to voluntarily reject the standards



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and philosophy of the world. This decision demands intensity. In Jesus' time, the criminal carried his own cross to his crucifixion. It was a "one way trip." Our discipleship is not a one-way decision but a daily task.

REGULAR FELLOWSHIP WITH BELIEVERS: "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart Praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved". (Act 2:46, 47) When our fellowship is for the right purpose - prayer, study of God's Word, and worship (2:42, 43), what glorious results! The believers were united ' happy, praising God, admired and people were being saved. How often has our fellowship with God been fractured by selfishness and self-centeredness?

REGULAR ENCOURAGEMENT OF BELIEVERS: "But exhort one another daily, while it is called today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." (Hebrews 3:13) We seek fellowship for meeting our own needs. Encouragement is for the benefit of others. We are to be constantly and urgently encouraging one another. It is God's way of helping us build our defense against sin and apostasy. With out encouragement we fall prey to the deceitfulness of sin and face spiritual disaster.

REGULAR RESPONSIBILITIES: "Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches." (2 Corinthians 11:28) Every day we face responsibilities that we must accept. There is no room for procrastination. The mature Servant of God accepts his God given responsibilities without delay.

Regularity is not only a sign of maturity but the pathway to maturity. That's the way I see it how about you. Write me at hopetriumphant@frontiernet.net and let me know.



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UNDER 45 MEETING

In conjunction with our 20/20 efforts, we are organizing a meeting for all those 45 years of age and under. The whole family is invited to attend the pot luck dinner after the Morning Service on August 29th. Following the meal, there will be a discussion on the future of our church. We would like your input as we move forward into the next decade on how best to meet your needs as a family and how we can best minister to our community. Please plan on attending this important meeting.

Depot Days - August 14th

We have handed out free bottled water for the past few years as a way to introduce people to our church. We will again do this outreach opportunity on Depot Days. Maybe you can assist us in giving away water and answering questions about our church.

New Secretary

We have appreciated William Baker helping us with some of the secretarial responsibilities this summer, but he returns to Liberty University this month. Kathy Brennan will become the new church secretary. Her hours in the church office are scheduled to be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday.

Coming in September

Along with our Fall program getting underway with Awana (September 13th) and Valley Classics (September 14th), we also will hear from two of our supported missionaries. Joe Lee, missionary to the American Indians, will be here for the service of September 19th. Ruth Rising, serving the Lord in Africa, will join us for the following Sunday morning.

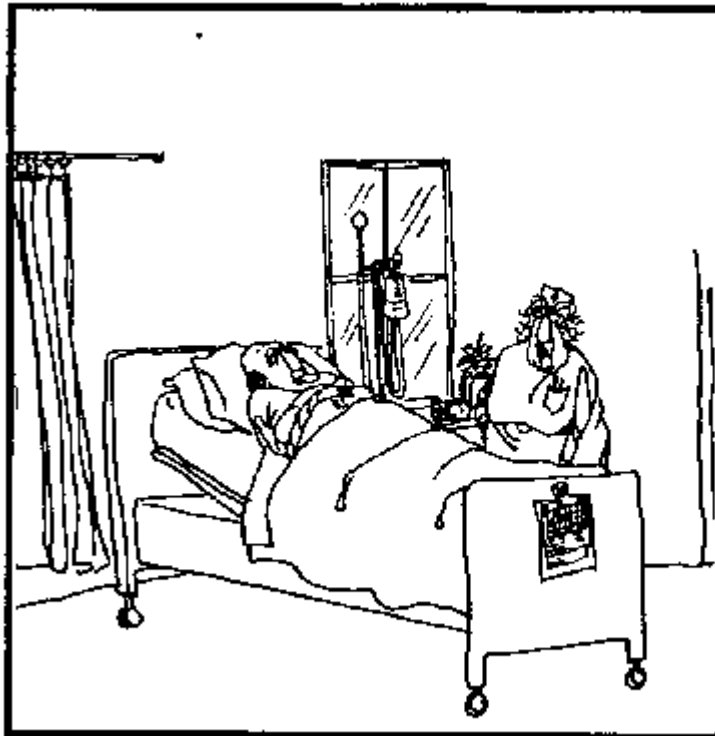


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Looking Ahead to September

- 5 - PM Communion
- 6 - Ladies' Bible Study, 7:00 p.m.
- 11 - Deacons' Meeting, 8:00 a.m.
- 13 - Awana begins.
- 19 - Joe Lee AM Service
 - Singspiration at West Endicott, 6 p.m.
- 26 - Ruth Rising, SS and AM Service
 - Sunday's Sundaes



"Good news, Reverend. The board has voted to pray for your recovery . . . the vote was 5 to 4."