

THE SGI JOURNAL OF LEADERSHIP

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THE SGI JOURNAL OF LEADERSHIP

MISSION STATEMENT

Leading the United Pentecostal Church International to think strategically about future growth.

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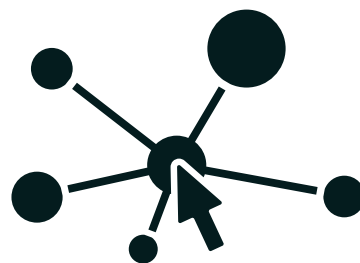
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From the General Superintendent

Why Every Minister Must Have a Personal Life of Prayer

Each person, and especially each minister, needs to schedule prayer when he or she can devote both quality and quantity of time. As the early church grew, the apostles had to restructure their organization and adjust their workload to make prayer and study their priority. They said, "We will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word" (Acts 6:4).

The morning is a good time for me to pray, before I face the distractions, interruptions, and busyness of the day. When I was a pastor, my goal was to arise on a typical weekday at 7:00 am, arrive at the church by 8:00 am, and close my office door until 9:00 am. This gave me an hour of uninterrupted time for prayer, meditation, Bible reading, and Bible study. I did not use this time for sermon preparation, although sermon ideas did come to me. Rather, my goal was personal spiritual renewal and growth through prayer and the Word.

This schedule was sometimes altered by travel, surgeries, and other urgent situations, but if I kept it at least seventy-five percent of the time, then I counted it a success.

Other opportunities for prayer arose each day, such as when visiting people, during counseling, and before and after worship services. As ministers, we can cultivate an attitude of prayer so that we maintain a constant communication with God throughout the events of the day. For example, when I received a telephone call about a sickness or other urgent need, I typically offered to pray over the phone, and many times the caller received an immediate touch from God. When counseling people about an important matter, I usually prayed with them before and after our discussion, not merely as a ritual but to ask for God's immediate help. Times of prayer like this remind us that we must look to God for answers, helps set the proper tone for the discussion, begins to implement the course of action that we decide upon, and provides an opportunity for miraculous intervention.

Many times, prayer is the means of receiving the necessary wisdom from God to address a problem. I frequently rely on the promise of James 1:5, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

When I faced a pastoral problem, I tried not to act hastily; if I did not see an immediate answer, I often delayed a final decision until I had time to pray about the situation for several days.

I tried to remember the admonition of James 1:19-20, "So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God." Taking time to pray is particularly advisable when someone has a wrong attitude or is heading in a wrong direction.

Over and over again, I have seen an answer come supernaturally after several days or weeks of prayer. In many cases, God deals with the person's heart so that he or she corrects the problem without the need for direct pastoral intervention.

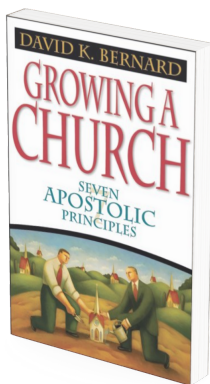
Of course, we should not use prayer as an excuse to avoid taking a necessary stand or to avoid confronting a difficult situation. Even when such action is required, however, prayer can help us to know what steps to take, how to take them, and when to take them.

Prayer helps to purify our motives and emotions so that when we do address a problem we will do it with "the wisdom that is from above," which is "first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy" (James 3:17).

The growth of our church in Austin, Texas, placed increasing demands on my time. It was a constant challenge to be faithful in prayer and study. Periodically, I had to evaluate and adjust my activities so as to maintain the priority and habit of prayer. At such times, I found it helpful to record my amount of daily prayer and Bible reading, not as legalism but simply for accurate information and self-examination.

In my early ministry, I often struggled to find time to pray more than fifteen minutes, until one year I made a commitment to pray an average of one hour per day for five days a week. I logged my prayer time on a calendar to ensure that I would keep my commitment. Of course, we should not emphasize quantity over quality, and we should not evaluate ourselves or others primarily by minutes or hours spent in prayer. Some people can seemingly spend much time in prayer without attaining maturity of life or ministry; we must seek a balance in this area as in all other aspects of spiritual life. Nevertheless, that year of disciplined prayer helped me to reach a new level of prayer, both in quantity and quality.

As a pastor, I also received great strength from the prayers of others. Sometimes, my prayer time was less than ideal due to tight schedules, physical and mental exhaustion, events out of my control, or simple neglect. Nevertheless, God was very gracious to give blessings, strength, renewal, and revival to me personally and to our church. I am convinced that this continuing work of God was due in large part to the faithful prayers of my wife, my parents, my extended family members, and the saints who upheld me daily in prayer. As the challenges and opportunities grew, the need for prayer grew, and seasoned prayer warriors were an important key to continued growth.



Recommended Resource

This article is adapted from my book, *Growing A Church* (Pentecostal Publishing House, 2011).



the sacred table

DAVID BRYAN

EDITOR'S NOTE

In the last issue, David Bryan began a discussion of the Sacred Table in the life of ministers. In this issue, we have chosen to include that article along with "part two" so that readers have the full value of the discussion.

IDEA IN BRIEF

In the course and development of ministry, it is vital that leaders maintain a sacred space of spiritual and emotional renewal. In this article, we will continue our study of the Sacred Table and discuss how to start and maintain a regular Sabbath.

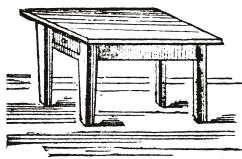
In the fast-paced, crowded world in which we live, time and space are commodities in the life of leaders that cannot be taken for granted. Ministry burnout and mental or even emotional breakdowns are more common now than ever before. And, sadly, it is the leaders—the helpers—who are paying the highest price. In all of our efforts to move people to where they need to be spiritually and be there for them, we must not forget that we too are people subject to the harsh realities of life.

If you are one of those "just push through the pain" kind of leaders, this is not going to be an easy conversation. But I would like to remind you that the gift of pain was given by the Almighty as an alert system to the rest of the body. Pain is meant to alert us to the fact that something needs cared for or attended to. The big dilemma for most leaders we work with in our ministry is how to balance life, family, ministry, and the whole person—mind, body, and spirit.

This is a reference to a place prepared by God for each of us to find rest, renewal, clarity, strength, and wisdom. It is where we can find a truly deep and meaningful relationship with God and with our spouse, family, and others.

The Sacred Table is referred to in the gospels as the Last Supper, the place where Jesus celebrated the Passover with His leadership team.

It was here at this table that they were set aside with Him, hidden from the whirling world around them. And it was here that Jesus revealed His plan and invited them to go with Him into His Kingdom. He still invites us today to be at that Sacred Table and enter with Him into glorious Kingdom endeavors.



God's remedy for all of this is found at a place we affectionately call "The Sacred Table."

It was during the final meal at this table in this sacred place that they were set apart from all other places and times. And Jesus used this special time and space to reveal His desire to His disciples. He wanted to spend this time with them.

And he said unto them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer. (Luke 22:15)

The feeling remains unchanged. God waits for us to meet Him and be healed and renewed in this special place. God is excited and even anxious to spend a true Sabbath with us. Why? Because it is a part of His original creative plan. God is honored in Sabbath rest. God is remembered in Sabbath rest. God is known in Sabbath rest. Sabbath was a part of the process of creation. Part of honoring God as His creation is "remembering Shabbat."

In all your busyness, do you have a place, time, or day set aside to renew your mind, body, and spirit? Do you have a time for your spouse and family?

Your leadership planning session has all the dates for your church, but do you have the dates set aside for your family's well-being? These are challenging questions with which we must all reckon if we are to live to honor God. For ministers and leaders, the conversation of rest and renewal has been a very difficult one for many reasons. Not the least of those reasons is the guilt many leaders struggle with, believing they must always be there for those in need. However, being there for everyone else but not for your own peace, or your own family's peace, does not ultimately honor the work of God in you.

So, we see that the Sacred Table represents a very important time and place for you and your family to be renewed, strengthened, and protected by God's design. Without it, we can place ourselves in grave danger.

Part Two: The Battle for Sabbath

The old timers used the term "steal away." It simply meant that whatever you were pursuing would not come easy, rather you must rob or borrow the time necessary to accomplish your mission. In our case, our mission is Sabbath rest.

In Part One, I introduced the idea of the Sacred Table as that special place with God, family, spouse, and personal heart devotion. Finding this special, sacred time and place—a true Sabbath—is critical to our mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

The Sacred Table is a reference to that sacred table that Christ asked the disciples to prepare as He was entering into His Kingdom. Here are a few things revealed at that Sacred Table.

Adversaries are Revealed

Many times, we fight enemies that we cannot see because we are often too caught up or too busy by the many things with which we are involved. Consider that Jesus and the other disciples had been with Judas many times previous to that final Pascal meal. But it wasn't until their time at the Sacred Table, while the bread was being broken and they were alone with the Master, that the true character of Judas was revealed.

Think of how often the destructive plans of the enemy are successfully launched against church or family because we never made it to the Sacred Table. We were just "too busy." And sometimes we even used the excuse that we were "about our Father's business."

Intimate Closeness with Him

What every leader and his or her family need is a true moment with God. Conferences, retreats, and seminars all have their place; but none of them can compare to just being alone with Him. Remember, it was at the Last Supper that John "leans into Jesus." Also note the revelations that John later writes and reveals to the church. What precious things await those who will pursue aloneness with Him!

In his book, *Sabbath, Restoring the Sacred Rhythm of Rest*, Wayne Muller wrote, "The human soul needs time to digest, absorb, and comprehend emotions and experience. . . . Regardless of the external pressure of coercion, the soul cannot be rushed. We must metabolize events and feelings in order to fully apprehend and understand our lives. It takes time for information to become wisdom."

How to "Sabbath"

Please understand that Sabbath—a sacred time and place—is not just a day off. Sabbath should be a place of safety, restoration, and healing for you, your soul, and your family.

There are two critical elements that comprise Sabbath and the Sacred Table: prayer and rest. We must be careful to do both.

Understanding the Sabbath/Sacred Table

Keeping a Sabbath day to honor the Lord and for personal rest and renewal is the most repeated command in the Bible. The Old Testament can contribute much to our understanding of it.

As the Sabbath is being expounded upon by God in the Old Testament, there are two initial biblical reasons for Sabbath-keeping that develop into parallel Sabbath activities of praying and playing.

- **The Exodus Reason:** As the Children of Israel are delivered from bondage and slavery into the promise, God said, "Let them go that they may worship (and commune) with me" (Exodus 8:1). Exodus provided the children of Israel opportunity to contemplate and communicate with God.
- **The Deuteronomy Reason:** This one directs us to social leisure. The book of Deuteronomy reveals what they were to do when they arrived in the land that was promised. Deuteronomy 6 speaks of the Israelites eating of vineyards, drinking from wells, living in houses, and enjoying the fat of the land. This would be the second component of Sabbath—enjoying rest. Praying and playing are deeply congruent with each other and have essential inner connections in God's design.

The Apostle Paul taught that any day can be used for a Sabbath (Romans 14:4-6). That's a good thing, since Sunday is not a day that pastors and church leaders in our culture can rest! It is hard to find a day to rest in a culture that never sleeps or rests like ours. However, it is critically important to set a day and even more helpful if you can pick the same day each week to be your Sabbath.

Let the Peace of God Rule in your Hearts

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts" (Colossians 3:15). We all long for the peace of God, but perhaps we don't want to be "ruled"! However, there is no real peace without offering our hearts to be ruled by Christ as we do what we're doing.

On Sabbath, we are to let go of all the ways we want to make things happen or control the people and situations in our lives. We submit to the Lord and His government of our lives. We learn that the world is not on our shoulders after all. God is running the universe and He can do it without us! The people around us will be just fine and we, ourselves, will be just fine, even if we don't get everything on our To Do List done!

For more resources on Sabbath and this subject:

- *The Sabbatical Digital Guide* from Soul Shepherding
- *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* by John Mark Comer (Waterbrook Multnomah Publishers, 2019).

Other Resources for Ministers

- <http://mission37.org>
- <http://pointsofrefuge.com>
- <https://apostoliccounseling.org/about-us>

David Bryan





Article No. 2

The Perfect Time for a Reset

Strategic Growth Initiative

In 2018, UPCI General Superintendent David K. Bernard introduced a vision and a plan for growing the United Pentecostal Church. God directed him to challenge every section and district in North America to double their number of churches and ministers. That was the birth of the Strategic Growth Initiative (SGI).

Immediately following the launch of SGI, District Superintendents, along with their District Boards, begin developing a ten-year plan for growing each district. I have a copy of the plans developed and they are good plans. Lots of thought went into each plan and, I believe, the plans will work as outlined.

Goals Set by Strategic Growth Initiative

The General Board, under the leadership of our General Superintendent, set goals and made a plan for accomplishing the following:

- Multiplying the number of ministers
- Multiplying the number of “works” (churches, daughter works, preaching points, etc.)
- Assisting existing churches with church growth
- Support and strengthen ministers and churches

COVID-19

Unlike anything I have faced in my lifetime, COVID-19 shut down many or most section, district, and national functions, conferences, camps, and events across North America and around the world. COVID brought with it many concerns, hurdles, setbacks, cancelations, and a host of changes to the “normal” lifestyle of most Americans and Canadians. The COVID pandemic resulted in many areas being significantly impacted: politics, widespread fear, a plague of sickness and death, economic setbacks, education and business disruptions, employment and financial concerns. And, yes, the church was forced to find new ways to minister to the people of God.

At the time of this writing, many states have lifted many, if not all, previously imposed COVID guidelines, especially in the United States. We can see the light at the end of the tunnel. We have reason to hope and believe that the church will soon return to its long held Apostolic mandate, carrying The Whole Gospel to the Whole World by the Whole Church. It is the perfect time for a reset.

Reset at the Local Church Level

Pastors, church staff, and volunteer leaders are feverishly working to reset and reopen local churches. Detailed plans are being created and implemented to reopen service schedules, ministries, church offices, training, discipleship, classes, evangelism, and more. I commend every pastor and church that are seizing the opportunity to review, reset, and reopen the church with renewed vision, excitement, and faith.

Note to Pastors and Leaders

- The SGI team is available to assist you in the reopen—restructure—reset process. Please feel free to contact any one of us for consultation, ideas, prayer, and encouragement. We are happy to assist you as or when needed.

Reset Section and District Strategic Growth Plans

Across the fellowship, District Superintendents, along with their District Boards, are reworking their original SGI plans. We thank God for the great section and district leadership of the United Pentecostal Church. They are men and women of vision, driven by a genuine burden to reach the lost, to impact their areas of responsibility, and to grow the church.

“Thank you!” to district leadership teams for investing the time to prayerfully and carefully review your original SGI plan, with the goal of resetting and relaunching Strategic Growth in your district.

**This summer is the perfect time to reset and relaunch
your Strategic Growth goals for your district.**

Most districts are planning to have camp meeting and other district events this summer. This is the perfect time to review, reset, and relaunch. We promise you, God is going to reward the prayer, faith, planning, and every effort made by each district to facilitate growth and revival.

We have noted and applauded the original four vision goals addressed in most plans: to grow the number of ministers in the district, to grow the number of churches in the district, to grow existing local churches in the district, and to strengthen the ministry. Now, we urge you to review and reintroduce your goals for your section and district.

Thank you for envisioning in faith what God could do through the unified efforts of your sections and district!

Jack Cunningham



Article No. 3

The Process of Ministry: Serving

The nature of ministry calls a man or woman of God to lay aside cares, interests, or distractions to advance the Gospel through the work of ministry. The process through which the gospel is spread is through the lens of serving. We see a portrait of this in Scripture when we look at Matthew 26. A woman with an alabaster box comes and anoints the feet of Jesus. As the disciples look on with indignation at the apparent waste of something so precious and costly, Jesus rebukes them, stating, "Verily I say unto you, Whosoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her" (Matthew 26:13). What a claim made by Jesus!

It is evident from the moment that we are introduced to this woman with an alabaster box that she has come to serve Jesus.

Her burden to anoint the Master connected her to the message of the gospel. Though being chastised by the disciples who were gathered with Jesus, her service to the Master created a teaching moment that expanded their view of the ministry. Jesus declared that her selfless act of servitude would be told as a memorial wherever the gospel is proclaimed throughout the world. Her single act of service connected her to those the gospel had not yet reached.

We will look at serving as being the process of ministry through five perspectives: serve the Master, serve the message, serve the ministry, serve the mission, and serve the masses. Engagement in these five areas brings out the heart of what it means to serve in the ministry.

Serve the Master

Just as in the example of the woman with the alabaster box, serving the ministry means serving the Master. Because of Jesus' sacrifice, we are no longer slaves to sin, but we have become servants of God (Romans 6:17-23). The foundation of ministry begins first in serving God. This is the call of personal discipleship and development in a relationship with God. Here, we begin to get the heart of God and feel a burden for the Word of God and the world around us. We follow the direction of Jesus, and we take up our cross and follow him (Matthew 16:24-26).

Serve the Message

Through serving God, we begin to develop a love for the truth of His Word. We find that it is the Word of God that grounds us and gives us clarity of who God is and what His mission is for the world. We serve the precious truths of the Oneness of God, a life of holiness, the necessity of being born again of the water and of the Spirit (John 3:5) as we see modeled in the book of Acts. As we serve the message, in the words of the preacher in Proverbs, we "buy the truth, and sell it not;" (Proverbs 23:23).

Serve the Ministry

Just as we serve God and His Word, we find that we are called to serve those already engaged in the ministry. Serving men and women of God who have come before us or who have stood beside us is an opportunity to honor the work of ministry that is already being done. Whether we are serving a pastor, an evangelist, a missionary, or another man or woman of God, our service to them often enables them to continue in the mission that God has called them to do. When writing to the Galatians, Paul instructed, “by love serve one another” (Galatians 5:13).

Serve the Mission

In fulfilling the Great Commission, we continue the ministry Jesus started on earth to save the lost (Luke 19:10). Whether through preaching, teaching, writing, or using other means to propagate the gospel, we serve the mission when we live out the Great Commission. Matthew 28:19 reminds us that the mission is to disciple the world through the power of the gospel. We serve to reach out to those in the world and share the gospel message with them.

Serve the Masses

Finally, we serve the masses as we seek to connect the gospel with those around the world. We seek to be a light in the darkness of our communities and our countries. We serve the masses and bridge cultural divides through the unifying work of Calvary, knowing that we will all stand before God one day. As John writes, “After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands” (Revelation 7:9). The masses are in the multitude, and we are called to serve them.

Doug Hines





Article No. 4

The Profile of a Church Planter

Abraham Lincoln is quoted as having said, "Give me six hours to chop down a tree, and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe." Before heading out to plant a church, much preparation needs to have taken place. Preparation of the person and preparation of the plan are keys to the success of any church-planting endeavor. Church planting is difficult for even the most qualified men and women, but it is nearly impossible for those who are not qualified and prepared.

Here are some of the most beneficial qualities that make for a successful church planter.

God's Call

First and foremost, a church planter must have a clear sense of God's call. It may not be as intense as the Apostle Paul's (Acts 26:16-18) or as reluctant as Jeremiah's (Jeremiah 1:4-10). It may be more like Isaiah's (Isaiah 6:8), as in a simple response to the presence of God. But, regardless of how it happens, there must be a deep and clear understanding that God is directing the process. Good ideas and man's plans alone can never build strong churches. Only through God's call and His direction can this endeavor be successful. A church planter needs to hear the Great Commission from the Great Commissioner.

Personal and Lifestyle Attributes

Prayer: A church planter must be a person of prayer. His or her prayer life must be one that daily strengthens and moves them in their specific God-direction. It is reported that 25% of American pastors spend less than 10 minutes in prayer per day, with the average being about 15 minutes. But church planters need to continually be aware that they are working on the front lines of spiritual warfare and must always be in the front lines of prayer.

Holy Ghost-filled Soul Winner: A church planter must be a soul winner, full of the Holy Ghost and faith. Jesus said that His disciples were not to embark on the Great Commission until they had been baptized with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-8). In the book of Acts, we read about the phenomenal evangelistic and church planting efforts that were ongoing following the day of Pentecost. When people were filled with the Holy Ghost, they were anointed and full of faith and it inspired and touched others.

Visionary and Communicator: A church planter must be a visionary who can not only receive God's vision but communicate it effectively to others. Vision is the ability to excite and enable people to see a cause. They can communicate their vision clearly and draw others into it. No one really wants to follow someone without a vision.

People Person and Motivator: To successfully draw others into the vision and the plan, the planter needs to be able to gather people, communicate the vision effectively, and motivate others to join with them. Successful planters love people and are able to relate to the lost as well as the found. Some people are more task-oriented than people-oriented. Church planters need to be the latter.

Strong Marriage and Family Life: Church planting couples must have a strong marriage that will allow them to share in the vision and the work of making it happen. They must each be emotionally and spiritually healthy enough to be an effective team working together under conditions that can be stressful. The enemy would like nothing better than to cause conflict and division within the marriage and family to distract from God's purpose.

Perseverance: The definition of perseverance is "persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success." Tenacity is another word that describes the quality of continuing on through difficult and even sometimes unfavorable situations. Church planting is not an easy, instant endeavor. It can take time, patience, prayer, planning, persevering, and more prayer. Oswald Chambers said, "Perseverance is more than endurance. It is endurance combined with absolute assurance and certainty that what we are looking for is going to happen."

While those are some of the characteristics that must be present before one should be considered ready to be a church planter, there is another element that should not be overlooked.

The Sending Pastor

A pastor plants churches by sending those people into communities that need an apostolic presence. Paul said, "How shall they preach, except they be sent?" (Romans 10:15). When a pastor becomes intentional about planting churches, he himself becomes a planter of churches. The pastor-planter must identify the characteristics mentioned above and assist in the preparation and the launching of a new church plant and minister.

So, let's join hands together and become intentional about becoming church planters, either by being the sending pastors or the ones being sent.

Nathan Faggins



Article No. 5

The Influence of Leaders

Leadership impact increases as influence increases. That influence can be either positive or negative. Leaders add value to people when they use influence in a positive way. Manipulation is using influence for personal gain and it brings a negative result.

Moses sent twelve spies to view the Promised Land and bring back a report to all the people. Two returned with a positive report and ten came back with a negative report. The ten allowed their fear to influence their decision and it impacted the future of an entire generation.

Although they had a positive report, Joshua and Caleb lacked the influence with the people to convince them that God was able to bring them to their promise. A leader's influence must be greater than the people's resistance.

There are three reasons the people disregarded the positive report. First, they forgot their past. They forgot God's deliverance from the bitter hand of bondage. Then, they came to settle for their present. God was providing for their needs, but they would rather go back than move forward. And, lastly, they feared their future. Joshua and Caleb saw the potential, while the others saw the enemy.

The ten allowed their fear to dictate which report they gave to the people. But Joshua and Caleb allowed their faith to determine their report of potential blessing. Fear influenced the people; faith could have saved them.

When those who follow are faced with the prospect of the unknown, they will face fear. Proper leadership can influence people to move beyond the fear.

If the influence is not great enough to move the people, then it is necessary to go back and build relationship with them.

Joshua later grew in his leadership ability; and his influence eventually led the people into the Promised Land. Gaining influence takes time, but it is worth the investment to experience the blessings that come with positive influence.

Who is listening to the voice of the leader? The impact of a voice is determined by the influence of the leader. One of the greatest measures of a leader is his or her ability to lead other leaders. Leaders are harder to lead because they often want to go their own way. But, in order to be a leader, you must first learn how to follow.

Samuel was a leader to whom the people listened, and they followed. He was an influencer of the people, the elders, and the king of Israel. Scripture tells us some of the qualities that made Samuel a leader of influence.



- **Samuel was secure in his calling.** He did not doubt it or his worth. Samuel was never intimidated by a disobedient king. He would speak the Word of God without fear or favor. People have more confidence in leaders who are secure in their calling (1 Samuel 15:13-23).
- **Samuel was willing to share his authority.** He gave the civil and military authority to Saul, and he remained the spiritual leader. He honored Saul when God chose him to be king. Samuel did not seek to compete against Saul, but to complete him (1 Samuel 9:16-17; 10:24).
- **Samuel desired to help others develop their potential.** He did his best to help both the people and Saul to succeed. Samuel encouraged the potential that was in Saul, trying to develop him into the leader God wanted him to be (1 Samuel 10:1-9).
- **Samuel spoke truth to the people.** When the people desired a king, he warned them what would happen (1 Samuel 10:18-19). He pointed out the foolish behavior of Saul and held him accountable. Samuel never backed away from truth (1 Samuel 15:26-33).
- **Samuel had a heart for God and the people.** He tried to lead the people and Saul in the way of the blessings of the Lord. Samuel never stopped trying to influence Saul even when the Lord had rejected him. He mourned Saul because he was a leader with a heart for people (1 Samuel 15:34-35).

What impact are we having on people? Why should people listen to us or follow us? If we ask ourselves these questions, we will find a voice of influence. Influence causes others to connect to the vision of growth. We can be leaders who make a difference in the lives of others for the purpose of Jesus Christ!

Tom Foster



ISSUE 4 TOOLBOX PRACTICAL TOOLS YOU CAN USE





PERSONAL DEVOTION TIME TRACKER



In this issue, we highlighted the importance of personal prayer in the life of a minister and why we must maintain regular practices of rest and renewal. In his article, David Bernard suggested tracking the time you spend in spiritual devotion in a given week. To assist you in this endeavor, use the "time tracker" chart below. As you complete this exercise, ask yourself how much time you spend in spiritual enrichment in a given week outside of regular church services (prayer, Bible reading and study, worship, fasting, meditation, etc.).

Use the top half of the chart to track a typical week of time spent in spiritual enrichment. After you have tracked your time in a typical week, use the bottom half of the chart to map-out what an "ideal week" may look like for you. Consider how you can develop a weekly spiritual rhythm. How can you increase the quantity and quality of time spent with God? This ideal week will serve as a goal to aim for. Make your ideal week practical, achievable, but also one that will stretch you to a new level of devotion.

MY TYPICAL WEEK

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

MY IDEAL WEEK

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY