

THE COMING SHORTAGE OF PASTORS

Bruce McAllister

I. God Is at Work! (Philippians 1:3-6, 12)

- A. Illustrations of Fervent Younger Pastors
- B. Illustrations of Faithful Older Pastors

II. Laborers are Needed!

A. The Search

“God and man are constantly searching for leaders. . . . In the Scriptures, God is frequently represented as searching for a man of a certain type. Not men, but a man. Not a group, but an individual” (1 Samuel 13:14; Jeremiah 4:25; 5:1; Ezekiel 22:30). “The overriding need of the church, if it is to discharge its obligation to the rising generation, is for a leadership that is authoritative, spiritual, and sacrificial” J. Oswald Sanders, Spiritual Leadership (Chicago: Moody Press, 1967, pp. 15-16).

B. The Situation – The serious spiritual leadership shortage

“The Aging of America’s Pastors”

<https://www.barna.com/research/aging-americas-pastors/>

“The Coming Shortage of Christian Leaders”

<https://gfamissionsjobs.org/blog/1101/the-coming-shortage-of-christian-leaders>

C. The Solution

1. Pray – “Lord of the harvest . . . send forth laborers!”
2. Preach/Teach/Disciple/Mentor – “The things thou hast heard . . . the same commit thou to faithful men.”
 - a. Renew and rekindle the Bible emphasis upon the work of the ministry, missions, and full-time Christian service.
 - b. Inspire and Involve
Pastor Jamie Sink, Southside Baptist Church, Biscoe, NC
 - c. Reproduce

- 1) Look within your own church to identify men for ministry.
- 2) Teach them to study the Bible, train them in preaching, and let them preach.
- 3) Mentor younger and mature men for pastoral ministry.
- 4) Prepare a man to pastor your present church.
- 5) Plan a transition for a new pastor and for yourself.

Dr. Mike Privett, "Passing the Baton," *Frontline*, Jan./Feb. 2021

"Intercede, Identify, Involve, Invite, Invest, Inaugurate, Influence"

Dr. Chuck Phelps, "Reproducing Spiritual Leaders", *Frontline*, Jan./Feb. 2021

"Careful selection, Close association, Thoughtful delegation, Realistic expectations, Ongoing intercession"

D. Probing Questions

1. Is there a need that I could personally meet through the dedicated exercise of the gifts and talents God has given to me?
2. Would I be willing to pray often that the Lord would send forth laborers from my family and local church?
3. Is there a mission team or ministry trip that I could join or promote?
4. Do I know a child or young person that I could personally pray for and challenge to consider a life of full-time Christian service?
5. Is there a lesson that I could teach, a message that I could preach, or an innovation that I could use to assist in meeting the coming shortage of laborers?
6. Is there a person or a couple that I could personally disciple or mentor toward ministry?
7. Is there a student that I could financially assist in pursuit of his/her serving God?
8. Is there a business that I could start to fulfill the Great Commission?
9. Is there a discouraged pastor or Christian worker that I could encourage and pray for?
10. Is there an already well-trained person or couple who dropped out of ministry and that I could redirect toward ministry again?
11. Is there a church, church plant, camp, school, college, mission, or other ministry that I could personally assist through serving or giving?

III. God is Able! (Ephesians 3:20-21)