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REGIONAL VISION

*To Build Healthy Partnerships
with Churches,
Pastoral Leaders
and the wider ABC
Family to fulfill
Christ's Mission
in our world.*



October 2020

I write this letter to my fellow ministers/pastors on this the end of Pastor Appreciation month to thank each of you for your service to our Lord Jesus Christ! Particularly, I want to thank our ABCOPAD Region Staff Pastors – Rev. Dr. Frank Frischkorn, Rev. Mark Mahserjian-Smith, Rev. Dr. Jeff Johnson, and the ABCOPAD Regional Associate Pastors! Thank you for your service to all of us who are a part of the ABCOPAD family of believers in Jesus Christ! You are loved and appreciated more than you will ever know by all whom you serve.

2020 has been unpredictable, unstable, and unlike any other year in recent history. Churches were forced to pivot overnight and build completely new ministry strategies to reach their communities. In the same way, church attendees were compelled to change the way they attend a worship service, engage with other members, and participate in Christian community. However, one thing that does not have to change is the way we show pastors our appreciation for all they do.

If you are wearied by the burdens of ministry, remember that you are not alone. The Lord Jesus is with you, the One who bore your need, your sin, your pain on the cross. God's Spirit is with you and will renew you for the work of each day. Remember you do not have to fix other people's problems; you are merely an under-shepherd—it is the Great Shepherd who saves and heals and delivers God's own people.

The Apostle Paul wondered, "Who is sufficient for these things?" (2 Corinthians 2:16), and in the last 2020 years many sincere pastors have wondered the same thing. Maybe you are discouraged because you don't write or deliver your sermons as enthusiastically as Billy Graham or some other person, because you don't always have the right words or know the best course of action every time. Remember that the Holy Spirit is powerful. God's ministry does not rest upon our ability!

October has been set aside and observed by some church congregations as "Pastor Appreciation" month, but perhaps you serve a congregation that simply does not appreciate you all that much. It is true that some churches see pastors as a paid provider of services. In many ways they would not think to "appreciate" the pastor any more than they would their dentist or plumber. You have shared your life with them, walked with them, and when you stop to notice it, their indifference hurts.

Remember the love of Christ! He loved you when you did not appreciate or value him. Understand not only that God sees you and the efforts you are making but God has promised that we will be rewarded, far beyond anything we could deserve (1 Peter 5:4). Ministry in a broken world will always give us reasons to feel weary. But we must not lose heart and gain the fresh strength and hope through the love of the Father, the work of the Lord Jesus, and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. "Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart" (2 Corinthians 4:1).

On behalf of the entire ABCOPAD Ministers Council, Thank you!! Your partnership, service, and love of God is appreciated! Peace and grace in the risen Christ,

PC

Pastor Chris Davis,
2019-2020 President