

WHERE DOES THE BISHOP GO FOR COUNSEL AND ASSISTANCE?

Bishops have been commissioned as "pastor to the credentialed leaders in their district." The question remains, "who pastors the bishop?" A few suggestions follow:

1. They must know the grace of God and be diligent in the nurture and development of their personal spiritual growth.
2. They must cultivate family relationships that provide encouragement and support. This calls for discipline of time and availability.
3. Additional responsibilities call for continued training and resourcing for the task. Time for prayer, meditation, reading and attending seminars is important. Congregations need to assist in providing time and finances to make this possible.
4. Bishops are encouraged to seek the counsel and assistance of other bishops and spiritual leaders.
5. Bishops should meet regularly with the ordained and licensed persons in their district, in group settings and one to one. These meetings should provide mutual encouragement and challenge. There should also be informal relaxed meetings for fellowship; these could include spouses.
6. Bishops should carefully delegate responsibilities to make it possible for them to enjoy worship services with their family.
7. Bishops are expected to give time and leadership to each congregation in their district. They still need to "belong" to a congregation where their membership is listed with their spouse.
8. Bishops may want to select a small group of persons to meet with them regularly for in-depth sharing, evaluation, counsel and prayer.
9. Busy bishops should be good stewards of their physical body. This demands time for relaxation, proper exercise, and healthy diet.
10. A thankful acceptance of our calling, along with serving joyfully, will make the difficult moments bearable. "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, Who has given me strength, that He considered me faithful, appointing me to His service" (I Timothy 1:12).