

MINISTERING TO
PASTORS' WIVES AS A
DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS
WIFE

by
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There is such a genuine need for pastors' wives to know one another intimately! They need to know they're not the only ones going through their particular church/personal problems. They need to have close, like-minded pastors' wives with whom they can cry, laugh, confide, and be encouraged and edified with Scripture and fervent prayer. Many of them have low-trust levels because they've been burned by sharing a heavy burden with "a close friend in the church" or even "an associate staff wife". They really do need other quality senior pastors' wives with whom to share! They need someone to point them back to Jesus' faithful, everlasting arms.

You may not be able to head up monthly meetings or annual retreats. You may not be in a position to send regular emails with a devotion or even to send out prayer requests; but perhaps you could periodically contact your pastors' wives via an email, text, phone call, or maybe even lunch just to ask how they're doing and to let them know you're thinking about and praying for them. A person who knows you GENUINELY care for them will trust you and open up to you when the need arises.

Below are seven ways I've been able to serve my Association's pastors' wives for the years my husband has been a Director of Missions. In many ways, what I do boils down to being a pastor's wife to the pastors' wives. May God inspire you to tailor one or many of these ideas to fit your capability of meeting the needs of your Association's pastors' wives. We're all created uniquely; so minister to your unique wives in your own unique way! "Faithful is He Who calls us, Who ALSO will do it!" (**1 Thess. 5:24**)

~ 1.) MONTHLY MEETINGS (Hebrews 10:24-25)

For SENIOR pastors' wives (husband is main pastor of church).

Dress is casual.

Snacks are provided.

Currently from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 or 9:00 p.m. the first Mondays of each month at my house.

It's never a problem to come late or leave early.

Can come as it works with their schedules, even if only periodically.

NO pressure to attend; meetings are always there if and when they can attend.

Though lots of fun and laughing, NOT "fluff" meetings! Their time is too valuable to waste!

Conversations are centered on Christ. (**Col. 1:18**)

Always times of encouragement from each other and Scripture.

Always short exhortation/devotion from the Scripture by me or one of the wives.

Significant times of prayer.

A "safe place" for pastors' wives to laugh, cry, confide, relax, and be encouraged and built up in the faith. (**Rom. 12:15**)

Confidential conversations and prayer requests have remained confidential since these meetings began in 2009. (**Prov. 11:13**)

The pastors' wives who come regularly are very welcoming to any new wives and genuinely serious about following Jesus. (no "husband bashing", etc.)

~ 2.) MONTHLY MEETING EMAILS

CONTAIN:

Reminder of next monthly pastors' wives meeting (date, time, location).

Pastors' wives birthdays for that month.

Short devotional by me. (If requested, non-pastors' wives receive the "devotion only" without meeting reminders and birthdays.) (**Eph. 4:15**)

~ 3.) ANNUAL RETREATS (Mark 6:31)

For SENIOR pastors' wives only.

Have been on a Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at my house.

Come when you can; leave when you must.

Breakfast and lunch are provided. (Could try 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with lunch only.)

It's FREE! (Association helps pay.)

Only need to bring Bible and something for notes and prayer requests.

Three segments of teaching/sharing and prayer. (They prefer our own wives over "special speakers" being brought in.)

LOTS of time for fellowship and questions ("how do you handle this in your church", etc.) grounded in Scripture.

Goal: to have not only a relaxing, fun, refreshing day but also a practical and spiritually substantial day in return for taking a Saturday away from family.

~ 4.) EXTRA EMAILS

~ a. Reminder Emails

One extra reminder email of monthly meeting is sent a day or so before that meeting takes place.

~ b. Prayer Request Emails (James 5:16)

Periodically, an extra email is sent with an urgent prayer request about a fellow pastor's wife. I try NOT to bombard with too many emails; therefore, I'm careful about the types of prayer requests I send. Though not every prayer request will be sent to the others, I do personally pray for each one and stay in touch with that wife about updates.

I am very careful not to email or share any prayer request with any other wives without first having permission! Many times, the regular attending wives ask for only the other regular attending wives to receive their prayer requests.

That confirms the intimate bond formed by meeting regularly with like-minded wives you can trust!

~ 5.) EXTRA VISITS

I (or my husband and I) visit a pastor's family who has lost a close family member, had surgery, etc. Flowers or a meal may be taken, as the Lord leads. If a visit

is not possible, they're always prayed for - even if only over the phone.

A notecard is always sent as well as periodic contact for updates and encouragement. **(1 Thess. 4:18)**

~ 6.) VISITS ON SUNDAYS (or Wednesday nights, etc.) (1 Thess. 5:11)

Visiting other churches on Sundays, mid-week services, or other times (including church socials you may be invited to) is a good way to meet and stay connected with your pastors' wives.

I always ask for the following information from new pastors' wives: cell phone, email, address, birthday, husband's birthday, and anniversary. (My husband contacts his pastors on their birthdays and anniversaries.) This way I can include them in our monthly emails and keep up with them through visits (see #5 above), calls, and texts (including saying "happy birthday" on their birthdays).

~ 7.) ALWAYS AVAILABLE (Gal. 6:2)

The pastors' wives are encouraged but never pressured to come to meetings! They know the meetings are a constant and will be there when and if they can make it.

Many of the pastors' wives will seldom, if ever, be able to attend our meetings because of home or work situations; but they all know they can always contact me with a problem, prayer request, question, or just to talk and be together! I'm happy to meet with them any time and place. I make sure they have my cell phone, home phone, email, and address. They know they can contact me any time of the day or night; they can drop over anytime; we can meet spur of the moment for lunch to talk, etc.

They (and I) prefer meeting at my home for several reasons: 1.) It's cheaper, and you don't have to leave a tip! 2.) You don't have to worry about conversations being overheard. 3.) There's no pressure to free up a table. 4.) It's a more comfortable atmosphere to share problems. 5.) It's more conducive for praying. **(Rom. 12:13)**

Finally, but certainly not least, I try to make an opportunity to talk with as many of my pastors' wives as possible about their salvation experience. Please do not assume that ANYONE is already saved because they're a pastor's wife, are sweet, or know a lot about the Bible. Jesus said, "Not everyone that says unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of heaven..." **(Matthew 7:21)** I not only regularly encourage them to pray for the lost but also to talk to the lost and try to win them to the Lord Jesus Christ! Enjoying this exciting journey God has given you to encourage and build up pastors' wives! Who else will do it?