



# Minister Appreciation Day

## A Congregation's Guide

**appreciate**  
those who  
**diligently labor**  
among you  
and have charge over you in the Lord and give you instruction

1 Thessalonians 5:12 (NASB)



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### PLANNING SUGGESTIONS

- Planning is an integral part of a successful Appreciation Day

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- Ways to invest in the long term care of our Minister/Pastors



## **PLANNING SUGGESTIONS**

Appreciating your minister/pastor does not need to be an onerous or expensive task. Consider gathering a selection of congregational members together from across the generations to come up with some ideas and present these ideas either all on one day or across the Sundays in October. Pastoring a church can be emotionally, spiritually & physically stressful so just knowing they are appreciated is a wonderful way to show your support.

### **SPECIAL FUNCTION:**

Hold a special morning tea or lunch after your Sunday morning service in honour of your Minister, and/or Pastor, and/or Ministry Team and their families.

### **CHAT WITH YOUR MINISTER** or their families:

Find out more about your Minister, what is their love language, what are their drives and passions and tailor your appreciation day towards something that is caring and encouraging for them specifically.

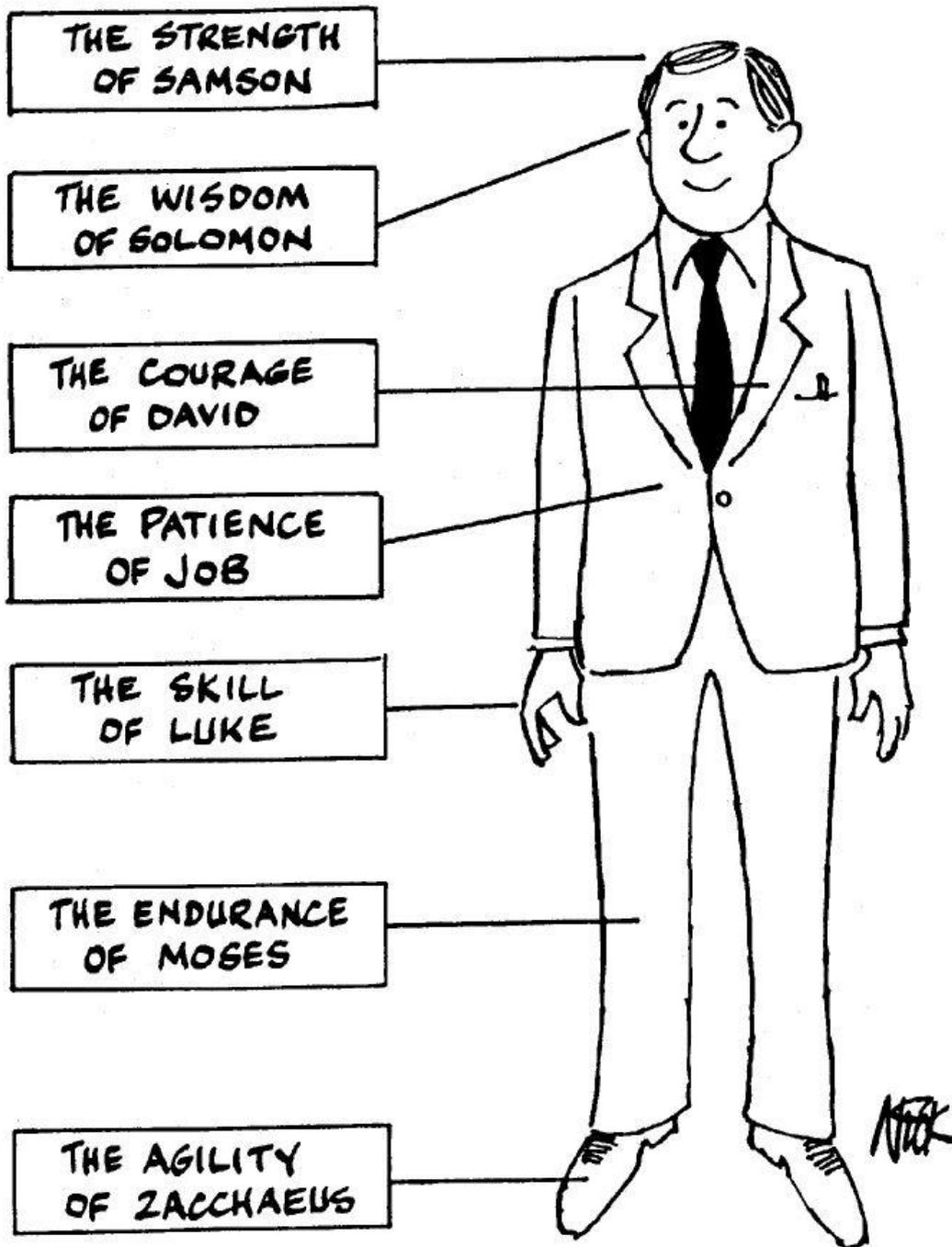
### **MONTH OF PRAYER:**

Even though we should be praying for our Ministry leaders regularly, why not make it a specific focus for congregational members over the month of October. Even children & youth programs can be involved in this during their meeting time. Perhaps each Sunday in October, add a specific prayer for your Minister during the service. Prayer is the simplest but perhaps the most profound way we can support our Church Leaders.

### **NOT JUST FOR ADULTS:**

Let the children in your congregation come up with some ideas on how they can express their thanks and gratitude. More ideas to follow later in this booklet.

# The Ideal Pastor



© 1994 Nick Hubbard



## MINISTER APPRECIATION WORKSHEET

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October is Minister Appreciation Day. As a congregation, here's a helpful tool to investigate the best way to express your appreciation. Ask your Minister and/or other ministry staff to complete this worksheet. It might be a nice idea to have their spouse fill in the worksheet as well.

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE?

Chocolate \_\_\_\_\_

Past time \_\_\_\_\_

Movie Theatre \_\_\_\_\_

Sporting Event \_\_\_\_\_

### WHERE DO YOU LIKE TO EAT OUT?

Fast food \_\_\_\_\_

Casual Dining \_\_\_\_\_

Picnic Spot \_\_\_\_\_

### WHAT RESOURCES WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE?

Books \_\_\_\_\_

Computer software \_\_\_\_\_

Conference/Course \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Card: \_\_\_\_\_

# 10 IDEAS FOR MINISTER APPRECIATION DAY



1. **Give your minister and their family a weekend (or full week) getaway.** Give them a break on somebody else's nickel – and make sure that time is not counted as vacation!
2. **Do some tasks for them and their family.** Rake the leaves. Cut the grass. Wash the cars. Paint a room. Power wash the deck or the house. Do something that helps him.
3. **Update and upgrade their office.** His office is sometimes a “home away from home.” Paint the walls. Provide new furniture. Make sure his computer is state of the art. Replace outdated wall paintings.
4. **Catalogue their books.** Computer tools allow you to catalogue books quickly, but somebody has to do the labour. Save your pastor the work, and he'll be grateful to have his library organized.
5. **Provide gifts for the whole family.** The church that loves a minister's family will have a minister who loves them. You might find that honouring the family is the greatest gift you can give your minister.
6. **Prepare a notebook of “thank you” notes.** Few things say “thank you” like a handwritten note – especially in a day of almost exclusive email

correspondence. I still have and cherish a notebook of notes that children wrote to me as their minister.

7. **Give them an Amazon tree.** The “tree” might be only a big twig or an artificial plant, but the leaves are Amazon gift cards. I’ve seldom met a minister who doesn’t want to buy more books.
8. **Give a significant monetary gift in your minister’s honour to missions or an academic institution.** Knowing that the gift will bless others will be a blessing first to your minister, and they’ll feel more comfortable with receiving such a gift.
9. **If they have family (e.g. parents, children) out of town, pay their travel expenses to come home for a surprise weekend.** A few unexpected memories with family will far outlast new books . . . .
10. **If you’ve been sitting a while in church, start serving.** Your minister may never know that Minister Appreciation Day pushed you out of your comfort zone, but I assure you they’ll appreciate every believer who gets more committed to God and His work.

**What other ideas would you add to this list?**

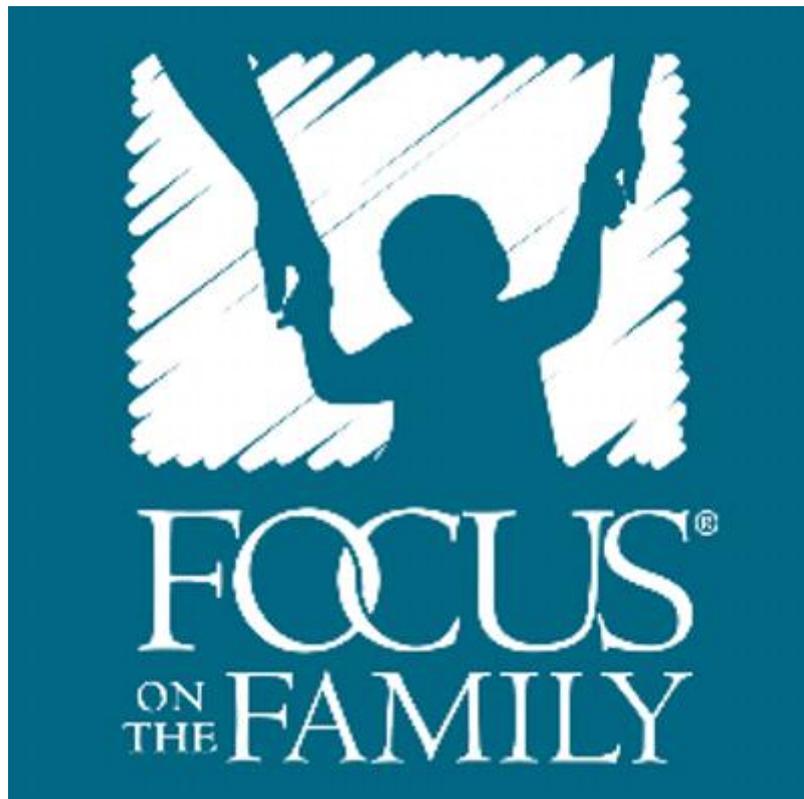
These great ideas came from the following blog of Charles Lawless.

<http://chucklawless.com/2015/10/10-ideas-for-pastor-appreciation-month/>

## FOCUS ON THE FAMILY – MINISTER APPRECIATION DAY

Focus on the Family has been helping Australian Families thrive for over twenty years. They do this because we believe that family is essential to a healthy nation. We aim to be a voice in the community, one that you can trust and find resolution in.

Visit Focus on the Family: <https://families.org.au/>



### **NOTE:**

From here on in, when the documents mentions Ministers, it is also referring to Pastors, Lay Preachers, Youth Pastors, and essentially anyone on your congregation's Ministry Leadership team.



# APPRECIATION AT ANY AGE

## **PRESCHOOLERS AND PRIMARY AGE:**

Create handmade appreciation cards for the minister and their family, and for your Children's worker if you have one. Have the children decorate cards with hand-drawn pictures of the minister/children's worker and their families (if applicable).

## **HIGH SCHOOL AGE:**

Initiate a working bee at your Minister/ Youth worker's house to mow, trim and mulch the yard, clean windows or wash the car. Be sure to consult with your minister/ youth worker before arranging this working bee.

## **YOUNG ADULTS:**

Arrange to care for the minister's young children (if applicable) and arrange a restaurant, ice cream and movie gift card for a date night. If they don't have young children – just arrange the gift cards.

## **ADULTS:**

Take up an offering for a financial gift, gift basket, gift card, gift certificate or arrange a weekend getaway.

## **SENIOR ADULTS:**

Bake homemade treats to present to the minister and family (if applicable). Senior adults may also like to host a minister appreciation meal on a Sunday lunch after worship services.

<http://www.lifeway.com/Article/pastor-appreciation-ideas-every-age-group>

Our Pastor is a  
for everything he does. He is  
always there to pick up the  
and answer our  
Sometimes we act like  
or  
and you probably think we're  
from the  
but you've  
made a  
of difference in  
our lives. Thank you for getting us  
in  
condition. And thanks for  
making us  
you deserve  
every  
! You will  
ALWAYS be in our hearts

Love, THE WARRIORS OF GOD

2013



# MORE THAN A ONCE OFF

## **PRAYER CALENDARS:**

Expressing Appreciation every day of the year.

At the beginning of each year – put out an electronic or printed prayer calendar for all age groups to pray for the Minister and his/her family. Add in their birthdays, anniversaries, events in their lives and in the church. Make it look funky – add in photos of the person on their birthday/anniversary/events etc. If you have more people on your ministry team – add them all in. If you have bible study groups – slot one group in at weekly intervals (repeat as necessary) to specifically pray for the minister/ministry team. The Minister/ministry team may like to send prayer points through to the bible study group praying for them that week. Remember that confidentiality is key within your bible study group prayer time. Perhaps at the bottom of the calendar make a note that anyone, at any time, on any day can pray for their minister or someone else on the ministry team.

Your congregational members may find that their own prayer life has been challenged and strengthened. Even encourage parents to pray with their children for their Minister and or children's worker at bed time prayers or during your Sunday School lesson each week. The same for your youth and young adults groups.

How committed are you to daily pray for your Minister and Ministry team? Can you come up with other ways that invests in the long term care of your Minister? What about ways to care for their partners and ways to get alongside their children. Don't forget that Ministers and their families have needs and circumstances different from those of any other job or profession. Encourage your Minister to make their family a priority and allow them the time and energy to keep their family healthy.