

YVONNE PARKER, AUTHOR

Mrs. Yvonne Parker, the author of this book, has also been a pastor's wife, serving alongside her husband as he pastored in the United States for 10 years. In 1978 the Lord called them to serve as Southern Baptist missionaries in the work of training pastors and their wives at the Baptist Theological Seminary of Zambia in Lusaka. She feels she is still fulfilling her role as a "pastor's wife" as she prepares other women for the Lord's work. She is the mother of two children and enjoys homemaking, teaching at the seminary and serving the Lord through her local church.

"I am a pastor's wife. When my husband and I were married, he was a student in seminary. I had no knowledge of what I would do as a pastor's wife. While at seminary, I studied under Mrs. Yvonne Parker. The things she taught me are written in this book. These lessons have helped me to know my place in the church, in the community and also in my home. It has helped me to understand the various ministries to the pastor's wife. I praise the Lord that such a book has been written."

Carol Kondowe, Livingstone, Zambia
(A pastor's wife)

"I have read this book, THE PASTOR'S WIFE. It will be a much needed help for the wife of a pastor. It needs to be printed in many of the languages of our people."

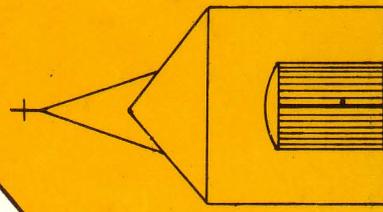
Mary Karuga, Nairobi, Kenya
(A pastor's wife)



GOD'S CHOSEN WOMAN

THE PASTOR'S WIFE

Yvonne Parker



in all these things we have complete victory through him who loved us” (Romans 8:35,37). When you are facing difficulties in the ministry, let the Lord remind you through his word that we have complete victory in him.

The writer of Hebrews tells us that we should never give up. We should rid ourselves of everything that gets in the way that would keep us from doing God’s work. Let us “. . . run with determination the race that lies before us” (Hebrews 12:1). He urges us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from beginning to end. Hebrews tells us that Jesus did not give up because of the cross. Whatever discouragements or difficulties come to us, let us not lose sight of God’s purpose for our lives. Let us always remember that the Lord is with us to help us when we are discouraged or in difficulty. “No, in all these things we have complete victory through him who loved us!” (Romans 8:37).

ASSIGNMENT: Read and write a summary of what the Lord is teaching us in 1 Peter 1:3-9.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank you for your Word, the Bible, which encourages me when I am discouraged. Help my husband and me to keep our eyes on you. Help us to continue faithfully in your work to the finish. Thank you that we have complete victory in you. Amen.

God’s Chosen Woman

(The Pastor’s Wife)

Written by: **Yvonne Parker**

Published by
International Publications Services
Thika Road, Ruaraka
Box 30370, Nairobi
KENYA

Printed by
Baptist Publications House
Thika Road, Ruaraka
P.O. Box 30370
Nairobi, Kenya

Copyright, 2004, International Publications Services, All Rights Reserved

WHEN YOU ARE DISCOURAGED

We are indebted to the copyright owners for the use of the GOOD NEWS BIBLE, the Bible in Today's English Version. Old Testament: Copyright © American Bible Society 1976; New Testament: Copyright © American Bible Society 1966, 1971, 1976. British usage edition.

© Copyright, 1986
International Publications Services
All rights reserved

Scripture To Read: 2 Corinthians 4:1-12; Romans 8:31-39; Hebrews 12:1-3
Scripture To Memorize: Romans 8:37

The Bible has many teachings for you when you are discouraged. God knows you are a soldier in a spiritual battle. If you are serious about doing his work faithfully, Satan will try very hard to discourage you. In 2 Corinthians 4:1-12, Paul says, "God in his mercy has given us this work to do, and so we are not discouraged" (verse 1). He reminds you to be careful to live as God would have you live. Put aside shameful deeds and deceit. Never present the word of God falsely. Live in the sight of God in the full light of truth. He continues by saying, "For it is not ourselves that we preach; we preach Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake" (verse 5). You are to live a clean life as a Christian servant. God will help you to do his work and preach the truth.

Second Corinthians 4:7-12 illustrates that we who have this spiritual treasure (God's message) are like clay pots. The reason we are made of very common, fragile materials as human beings is that we cannot bring honour to ourselves. We are very limited. We are "clay pots" in order to show God's power and to bring glory to him. God's word encourages us in verses 8-12 by reminding us that we are often troubled, but not crushed, sometimes in doubt, but never in despair; there are many enemies, but we are never without a friend; and though badly hurt at times, we are not destroyed. At all times we carry in our mortal bodies the death of Jesus, so that his life also may be seen in our bodies. Throughout our lives we are always in danger of death for Jesus' sake, in order that his life may be seen in this mortal body of ours." Paul tells us not to be discouraged because we are doing the work the Lord has given us to do. Though things are not always easy, the Lord is with us to encourage us to be faithful to his calling.

Paul writes in his letter to the Romans, "... If God is for us, who can be against us? Certainly not God, who did not even keep back his own Son, but offered him for us all. He gave us his Son will he not also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:31-32). When you face discouragements remember that it is the Lord who is enabling you to be faithful to serve him. Paul continues by asking, "Who, then, can separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble do it, or hardship or persecution or hunger or poverty or danger of death?... No,

ASSIGNMENT: Write a summary of what the Lord is teaching you in Galatians 6:7-10.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help my husband and me to live the kind of lives that will be pleasing to you. Keep us safe from serving you as we should. Help us always to do the work of ministry in a Christlike manner. Amen.

CONTENTS

	Page
LESSON 1: Your Conversion Experience	5 ✓
LESSON 2: Your Husband's Call to the Ministry	7
LESSON 3: The "True" Prophet	9
LESSON 4: The Qualifications of the Pastor	11
LESSON 5: The Good Wife	13 ✓
LESSON 6: Through My Husband's Eyes	15
LESSON 7: Through My Own Eyes	17
LESSON 8: The "Ministering" Pastor's Wife Relating to People	19
LESSON 9: The Pastor's Wife as Her Husband's Helper	22
LESSON 10: The Pastor's Wife as Homemaker	25
LESSON 11: One Who Helps to Manage the Money Well	28
LESSON 12: The Pastor's Wife At Church	30 ✓
LESSON 13: The Pastor's Wife and Women's Work	32 ✓
LESSON 14: When Criticism Comes	34
LESSON 15: The Pastor's Wife, A Woman Of Prayer	36
LESSON 16: The Pastor's Wife, A Personal Counsellor	38
LESSON 17: The Pastor's Wife, A Woman With Priorities	40
LESSON 18: The Work Of The Pastor	42
LESSON 19: Some "Pitfalls" In The Ministry	44
LESSON 20: When You Are Discouraged	47

INTRODUCTION

When I decided to write these lessons, possibly to be published, I wanted to make them as practical as possible. I have taught them at Baptist Seminary in Lusaka, Zambia several times. In the beginning, I taught them from "my head" because I had not organized them and put them on paper.

When one of our bachelor seminary graduates married and was called to a church, his new bride expressed to me the desire to study the "Pastor's Wife" course. I suggested that I could tutor her by correspondence and then we could get together for discussion of the lessons as needed. She worked through the materials and I began to realize that many pastor's wives could benefit from these materials if they were printed.

I have written these lessons having in mind that they can be used in several ways:

- 1) For seminary or Bible School classroom study.
- 2) For small group study (perhaps in an association)
- 3) In a pastor's wives' meeting.
- 4) For individual study and meditation.

I am indebted to Mrs. Mary Small, Baptist missionary in Zambia, for her valuable help and suggestions in the preparation of this manuscript. Her input has been of great help as we have worked to put these lessons together.

Yvonne Parker

Christian) himself by seeking the approval of his fellowmen. He must be careful to do as God leads him.

5. *Hypocrisy*: It is much easier to *tell* people what they should do and be than to actually follow our own teachings. The pastor must not excuse himself from following the teaching of Christ. He must not put on a false face before the people. He should live a sincere Christian life as an example before his people. He cannot trick God. He knows our hearts, actions, thoughts and words. There is a saying, "Your actions speak so loudly, that I cannot hear what your lips have to say." Actions speak louder than words.
6. *Letting Christian Service Become Drudgery*: Many times a pastor is tempted to do the work of the Lord in his own strength. He forgets to depend on the Lord for guidance and direction. He begins to look on his work as being tiresome and drudgery. "Drudgery" means unpleasant and uninteresting and hard. God is not pleased when a pastor does his work in this way. God rebuked the priests who looked upon his service to God as a tiresome task rather than a wonderful privilege. (Malachi 1:13). A pastor must maintain close fellowship with the Lord. Then he can show true compassion for lost people. He will have a deep concern for spiritual growth in the lives of the people he ministers to.
7. *Professionalism*: This is looking at our job just as something we are paid to do. Sometimes a pastor can begin to look upon his work as a "job" which has to be done, a way of earning a living. A pastor must always remember that he is called by God to be a servant to the people.
8. *Pride*: A pastor sometimes begins to think that the good things happening in his ministry are because he is clever or well educated. He might be tempted to think that he is better than others. He becomes pleased with his position. He might feel that as a pastor, he has authority and power over those people. He needs to remember that he is a servant. God is the one whose power makes all things possible. First Timothy 3:6 teaches that a pastor must avoid being swelled up with pride.

Pray for your husband as he seeks to remain faithful to the Lord in the work of a pastor. Galatians 6:7 tells us, "Do not deceive yourselves; no one makes a fool of God. A person will reap exactly what he sows." Paul warns us not to live in our own natural desires, but to live in the Spirit. He reminds us in verse 9 not to "... become tired of doing good; for if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest." Let the Lord lead you and your husband to avoid any pitfalls or traps which Satan may put before you. Remain true to him as you do the work of ministry.

SOME "PITFALLS" IN THE MINISTRY

Scripture To Read: Galatians 6:7-10
 Scripture To Memorize: Galatians 6:10

God is the one who helps a pastor do his work faithfully and effectively. It is sad to say that some men are no longer qualified to do the work of a pastor. We have already studied the qualifications of a pastor. If a pastor's life changes so that he no longer meets these requirements or qualifications, he has disqualified himself for the work of the ministry. (The word disqualify means to make unfit or unable.)

One of Satan's greatest victories is when he can tempt and trick a fine pastor to do wrong. This leaves him disqualified to serve as a pastor in the Lord's work. He would be unfit to continue serving the Lord.

Some of the pitfalls which Satan uses, hoping to "trap" and disqualify men called of God to serve as pastors are listed below. Pray that God will deliver pastors from these temptations.

1. *Love of money.* Many pastors have become ineffective in their work because they are too concerned about money and material things.
2. *Morals.* (Morals concern standards of right and wrong.) Many pastors have left the ministry of the Lord, because they fell into the sin of immorality. A good homelife is one way to guard against this.
3. *Laziness.* Usually pastors are hard-working men. There are some who are lazy by nature. The pastor must answer to the Lord for the use of his time. He should stay close to the Lord. He should pray for guidance in understanding the importance of his work.

The pastor's wife must also be faithful in improving her abilities to serve the Lord. She should not become lazy and forget her responsibilities. (2 Timothy 2:15)

4. *Compromise.* This temptation can come in many ways. A pastor may be tempted to overlook sin in the lives of church members. He may not preach the full truth of God's word because it affects the life of some member. He may overlook the mixing of Christian beliefs with beliefs of traditional religions when they are opposed to each other. The pastor must be careful not to "compromise" (to accept something less than

YOUR CONVERSION EXPERIENCE

Scripture To Read: Ephesians 2:8-10
 Scripture to Memorize: Philippians 2:13

Before we can discuss the work of the pastor's wife, each one of you must look at your own life. You must consider your relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Some of you may have accepted Jesus as your Saviour when you were young girls. Now you are growing in your knowledge of him, obeying him day by day. Some of you may have just recently come to know Jesus as your personal Saviour. You are seriously committed to learning of him and following his will for your life. Some of you may have known and served the Lord for many years. But there are others, though you are married to a pastor, who are not sure that you have a personal, saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Each one of you individually must be right with God. Having asked forgiveness for your sin, then ask Jesus Christ to come live in your heart. You cannot think that just because you are married to a pastor that God will overlook your sin. You cannot think that even though you are without Christ, God will be pleased with good works you do in his name. Each of you must be cleansed from sin through the blood of Christ. In his power and spirit you can serve him every day.

It is important for you to know that you have accepted Jesus as your personal Saviour. Are you able to say clearly, without a doubt, that Jesus is your Saviour? Is he leading you day by day? If so, you are on the pathway to blessings as your husband serves as pastor. You can be his encourager and helper in his ministry. If you cannot say "Yes, Jesus is my Saviour," you need to stop right now and carefully think of what Christ has done for you. Then you must go to God in prayer, confessing your sins to him and asking his forgiveness. As you pray, you should ask Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, to come and live in your heart and to teach you his ways. The Bible promises you that God hears and answers this prayer. Now you are ready to begin the journey as a helper in the ministry with your pastor-husband.

As the wife of a pastor, you can sometimes feel unsure of yourself. There are so many things expected of the pastor's wife by the church, compound or village. Your family also have things they expect you to do. The Bible tells us, "... God is always at work in you to make you willing to obey his own purpose" (Philippians 2:13). As you begin to think about and study the work of the pastor's wife, look to the Lord with great excitement for the things he will teach you. He has said that he will make you *willing* and *able*.

ASSIGNMENT: Write or tell what happened when you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour.

1. Be prepared to share your testimony with your group or class.
2. Write your testimony and share it at home with your family during your family worship time.

PRAYER: Lord, thank you for salvation in Jesus Christ. Help me in my day by day life to know your guidance and will. Give me the faith to know you are going to make me *willing* and *able* to be a good pastor's wife. AMEN.

11. Performing special services
a) weddings b) funerals c) baptisms d) dedication of children
12. Personal responsibilities
13. Family responsibilities
14. Associational responsibilities
15. Convention responsibilities

Usually your husband will be able to plan a daily schedule to enable him to do his work consistently. However, sometimes emergencies arise, and he will have to change his plans and help in these situations. Discuss with your husband his work as a pastor, and help him write out a daily and weekly schedule for his work. He might not be able to follow this schedule every day. Having a schedule will help you know how to arrange your family routine so it will not conflict or create problems with his work. Do not be too demanding of your husband's time. He should not be hindered from doing his work as a pastor.

In 2 Timothy 4:1-5, Paul tells Timothy, "...to preach the message, to insist upon proclaiming it (whether the time is right or not), to convince, reproach, and encourage, as you teach with all patience.... But you must keep control of yourself in all circumstances; endure suffering, do the work of a preacher of the Good News, and perform your whole duty as a servant of God." The work that the Lord has called your husband to do is of greatest importance. Let the Lord enable your husband to do his whole duty because you are serving beside him as a supportive pastor's wife.

ASSIGNMENT: Read this lesson with your husband and then together write out a daily and weekly schedule for his pastoral work.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, I thank you for the kinds of ministry and work you have called my husband to do as a pastor. Help me to be a supportive wife by serving beside him in the work of our home and our church. Let us do our whole duty as your servants. Amen.

THE WORK OF THE PASTOR

Scripture To Read: 2 Timothy 4:1-5

Scripture To Memorize: 2 Timothy 4:5

In order for you to support your husband in his work as pastor, it will help you to know the kinds of work he will be called on to do. Much of the work he will do will come from his personal motivation as God leads him. As pastor, he is the shepherd of the flock. The church (fellowship of believers) will be looking to him for the leadership they need to grow and mature as Christians. They will also need leadership to grow in numbers and outreach. The pastor should provide this leadership.

Some people think the pastor has very little work to do. They think he only prepares sermons to preach, performs weddings and preaches at funerals. There are some pastors who are like this. However, men who are truly called of God to the work of a pastor are many times over-worked. Your husband will have a very busy schedule. You will need to plan your family activities so that you can help him with many of the family responsibilities. This will help him to perform his pastoral duties effectively. He carries the major responsibility for leading in the work of the church. As a supportive pastor's wife, you need to help him do the work God has called him to do. You can do this by faithfully guarding his personal study and quiet times so he can be prepared every day for the Lord's work. Encourage him to spend adequate time with his family, helping to guide the children as they grow.

The duties of a pastor will involve the following kinds of work:

1. Preaching
2. Teaching
3. Counselling
4. Visitation of church members
5. Visitation of the lost and unchurched people
6. Administration of the church (helping the church to run smoothly)
7. Planning
8. Personal study
9. Sermon preparation
10. Prayer (personal needs and needs of the congregation)

YOUR HUSBAND'S CALL TO THE MINISTRY

Scripture To Read: 1 Timothy 3:1

Scripture To Memorize: Philippians 4:19

The Bible tells us that if a man wishes to be a pastor or a church leader, "...he desires an excellent work" (1 Timothy 3:1). As you think of your husband's ministry, you must respect the fact that the Lord has chosen him for an excellent work. It is a work which has God's blessing. As a pastor's wife, you must give full support to your husband as he ministers under the leadership of the Lord.

Most of the time you will be happy that the Lord has called your husband to the work of a pastor. Sometimes there will be difficulties. There will be times when there is not enough money to care for the needs of the family. There will be times when you will feel alone. When people are critical, you may feel that your husband has made a mistake in serving as a pastor.

Jesus teaches us that "If anyone wants to come with me, he must forget self, take up his cross every day, and follow me. For whoever wants to save his own life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it" (Luke 9:23-24). God's Word teaches us that he is faithful to us, to provide for our needs with his abundant wealth, through Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).

You must be willing to trust the Lord to guide your husband as he preaches, teaches and ministers. You must trust daily that the Lord will provide for the needs of your family as you support your husband in his calling.

Throughout the Bible we find examples of men whom God has called to do his work. Some of them said yes immediately. Others argued with God and brought trouble upon themselves. It will be of help to you to study the responses of some of these men who were called by God.

1. In Genesis 12:1-2 we read how Abram was called to leave his homeland, relatives and friends, and go to a strange land. What did he do?
2. Exodus 3:10 tells us that Moses was called to lead the children of Israel out of captivity in Egypt to the promised land. What answers did Moses give God? (See Genesis 3:11-4:17.) What did Moses finally do? (See Genesis 4:18-19.)

3. Isaiah 6:1-8 tells us of the time when Isaiah experienced God's call. Tell what happened to him in your own words.
4. In Jonah 1:1-3, we read that God called Jonah to go and preach to the people of Nineveh. What did Jonah do? What happened to Jonah? (See Jonah 1:3-3:5.)
What was Jonah's attitude when God spared the lives of the people of Nineveh? (See Jonah 4:1-3.)
5. Matthew 4:18-20 tells us that Jesus called Peter and Andrew to leave their fishing business and follow him. What did they do?
6. In Acts 26:15-19, Paul tells how he was called to serve Jesus as a preacher of the gospel. What work did the Lord have for Paul to do?

ASSIGNMENT: Ask your husband to share with you the things that have led him to answer God's call to be a pastor. Write a summary of the things he has shared with you. Thank the Lord for the "excellent work" he has called your husband to do.

You cannot do every job you are asked to do. God has given each person spiritual gifts and abilities to work in the church. They should be shared by other members in the church. In Romans 12:4-6, Paul says, "We have many parts in the one body, and all these parts have different functions. . . . So we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us." You will need to choose to do the kinds of work in your church that best use your spiritual gifts and abilities. Paul advises that ". . . Do not think of yourself more highly than you should. . ." (Romans 12:3). You are a human being with limitations. Take a reasonable workload. If you take on more work than you can do well, you will lose some of the joy in serving Christ.

Sometimes you will be tempted, as you look around in the Christian community, to feel that you are working harder than anyone else. Jesus warns you not to become proud of your spiritual works. He says that when you have done all you have been asked to do, you are to say, ". . . We are ordinary servants; we have only done our duty" (Luke 17:10).

Let the Lord lead you to understand how important your responsibilities to your husband and children are. Let him give you wisdom to set priorities (put the important things first). Use your spiritual gifts and abilities to do his work in the church.

ASSIGNMENT: Make a list of the kinds of work or ministry the Lord is leading you to do at this time. Arrange this list according to priority (in order of greatest importance to the things of least importance).

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me to see how important my role as a wife and mother is. Help me to take my family responsibilities seriously, and then to seek to serve you in the other ways you will lead me. Let me gladly do my duty as an ordinary servant. Amen.

THE PASTOR'S WIFE — A WOMAN WITH PRIORITIES

Scripture To Read: Romans 12:1-8; Luke 17:7-10
 Scripture To Memorize: Romans 12:2

After reading the previous lessons, you are beginning to understand the many kinds of work or ministry you will have as a pastor's wife. Looking at them briefly again, they are:

1. Responsibility for your personal relationship with the Lord.
2. Caring for and encouraging your husband.
3. Meeting the needs of your children and disciplining them as needed.
4. Develop your skills in being a capable wife, mother and homemaker.
5. Accept opportunities to serve and minister in your church.

You are beginning to ask, "How is it possible for one person to be able to do all of these things well?"

Paul teaches you in Romans 12 that you should "... Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer." He does not mean that you should take on more responsibility in the Lord's work than you can do well. You must also fulfil your responsibilities personally to the Lord and to your family. As you offer yourself to the Lord completely, you do those things that please him. Paul says, "Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God-what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect" (Romans 12:2). God does not want you to feel over-burdened by the work he has called you to do. He would have you fill your minds with the knowledge of his will.

God will lead you to set the right priorities. The word priority means "to place in order of importance." You can decide the order of priority by listing the kinds of work you feel God wants you to do: wife, mother, women's work, counselling, teaching, etc. You list first the work that has the greatest importance and continue down the list to the least important. As you use this list you will prayerfully seek God's guidance in the matter of taking on additional responsibilities. It might be that God wants you to say no to other jobs you might be asked to take.

THE "TRUE" PROPHET

Scripture To Read: Hebrews 13:7
 Scripture To Memorize: 1 Peter 4:19

In some places in the world young women have the freedom to choose the man they will marry. In other places a young girl may have to marry a man whom she does not know very well. In her cultural traditions, her parents choose a husband for her. In either case, the Lord wants you to be a supportive wife. When you marry a pastor, you need to understand what kind of man the Lord expects him to be. If your husband receives the call of God to be a pastor after you are married, you also need to understand his call and how you can be his supportive wife.

The Lord gives us many teachings in the Scriptures about how the pastor or church leader should live daily before his congregation. First Peter 5:1-4 speaks of the leader or elder as the shepherd of the flock. This shepherd is to take care of the flock willingly, not just for money. He must have a real desire to serve the people. He should be a shepherd who lives daily as an example to the flock, not seeking to rule over them.

The Scriptures speak of the prophets and false prophets. The true prophet speaks God's true message to his people. The Lord would have your husband, as a pastor to speak God's true message faithfully, whether it is the message people want to hear or not. In Jeremiah 23:28, we read, "The prophet who has had a dream should say it is only a dream, but the prophet who has heard my message should proclaim that message faithfully." A false prophet tells lies or gives his own message to the people, not God's message. In Jeremiah 14:13-16 we read that God will bring punishment upon any man who claims to be God's messenger and lies about God's message. The same chapter tells us that the Lord is grieved when prophets and priests carry on their work but don't know what they are doing. Your husband must always preach the truth from God, never preaching lies or his own message.

In 2 Timothy 4:2, the apostle Paul urges pastors "to preach the message, to insist upon proclaiming it (whether the time is right or not), to convince, reproach and encourage, as you teach with all patience."

Thus, you can see that God has special work for your husband as he serves as the pastor of a church. You know your husband better than anyone else knows him. Sometimes you may feel that he is only a man, with many faults and weaknesses. But if he is a man who has been called by God, the Lord will

help him to speak his true message faithfully and boldly. Even when people within and outside the church persecute your husband, the Lord will be faithful to him. First Peter 4:19 encourages us with these words: "So then, those who suffer because it is God's will for them, should by their good actions trust themselves completely to their Creator, who always keeps his promise." The Lord is faithful to those he has called to do his work.

ASSIGNMENT: Ask your husband to share with you the things he feels the Lord wants him to do as he serves as a pastor. Write these on your prayer list, and pray daily for your husband.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, I thank you that your Word gives clear teaching about the work of the pastor as your messenger. Help my husband to understand and faithfully speak your message to the people of our church. Help him to live as an example of Christ, both before our family and before our church. Help him to lead our church in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

5. DO ask questions to help you get a complete understanding of the person and their problems.
6. DO speak the truth in love as you begin to understand the situation. Depend on the Lord to lead you to know what to say. It might not be what the person wants to hear.
7. DO ask your husband, the pastor, to come if you feel the person needs more help than you can give. You will need to get the person's permission to talk to the pastor.
8. DO continue to remember to pray for those who shared with you.

The DO NOT List

1. DO NOT act as if you are shocked at what the person has told you. Calmly listen before making comment.
2. DO NOT offend the person by asking questions in a way that would hurt their feelings.
3. DO NOT gossip about what a person has shared with you. Do not tell anyone what has been shared in confidence.
4. DO NOT forget to pray daily for the Lord to help this person. Continue to remember them as you pray in the following days and weeks.

Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 1:3 that we should give thanks to God. "...the merciful Father, the God from whom all help comes." He says in verse 4 that God "... helps us in all our troubles, so that we are able to help others who have all kinds of troubles, using the same help that we ourselves have received from God." You can be sure that God will enable you to help others who are in need, because Jesus Christ is your help. Let the Lord use you to share his help with others. Listen to their troubles and encourage them to find his will for their lives.

ASSIGNMENT: Write in your own words what Paul is teaching you in 2 Corinthians 1:3-6.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, sometimes I think that I have very little wisdom to offer someone who comes to me for help. Lead me to see the ways you help me. Enable me to share your help with those who come to me for counselling. Thank you that you are the God from whom all help comes. Amen.

THE PASTOR'S WIFE — A PERSONAL COUNSELOR

Scripture To Read: 2 Corinthians 1:3-6
 Scripture To Memorize: 2 Corinthians 1:3

Because you are the pastor's wife, you will find that people will be coming to you to seek help with their problems. The longer you are at your church, the more people will feel free to come to you for advice. They will want to confide in you. To confide is to tell one his secrets or special problems. As pastor, your husband will probably need to set certain times when his members can come to him to talk about their special problems. You will not need to set any special time for the counselling you will be called on to do. The women and girls of the church will feel free to come to you at any time for help and advice. You will also want to visit with your husband when he visits members of the church, especially when he visits at times when the women are at home. These women will feel free to share their problems if the pastor's wife is with him.

If the women of the church feel that you are interested in their difficulties and problems, you will soon find that the word gets around and they will be saying, "When you have troubles and do not know what to do, go and talk with the pastor's wife. She will understand and will help you find an answer." You will be able to give advice on many different kinds of problems if the women have confidence in you.

When women begin to come to you for advice and counselling, you will have an opportunity to answer their questions about their spiritual condition as well. Your Christian love and caring concern will enable you to help with many of the problems faced by women in your church and community.

There are many ways you can help people in their difficulties. They are divided into two lists: The DO list and the DO NOT list.

The DO list

1. DO pray and ask God to help you counsel well.
2. DO listen with an OPEN mind. Carefully listen to the person sharing her problem with you. Be patient to hear the whole story. Trust the Lord to help you to understand the problem.
3. DO show real caring and concern and sympathy as they share needs and problems.
4. DO be prepared to read God's word and pray with those who come to you for help.

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE PASTOR

Scripture To Read: 1 Timothy 3:1-7
 Scripture To Memorize: 1 Thessalonians 5:24

As a pastor's wife, it will be helpful for you to know what the Bible teaches about the qualifications of a pastor. When you understand these qualifications, you can be a better helper to your husband as he leads the work of the church.

In 1 Timothy 3:1 we find reference to the bishop. In different translations he may be called the church leader, elder or pastor. All of these terms mean about the same thing. They are different words that can be used as names for the same office or person. We may call the pastor our church leader or elder or bishop. The way we refer to him can differ from church to church, or denomination to denomination.

The apostle Paul gives clear teaching about the qualifications of the pastor as church leader. We can divide these qualifications into three parts.

1. PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- A. He must be "without fault" (verse 2a).
- B. He must have "only one wife" (verse 2b).
- C. He must be "sober" (verse 2c).
- D. He must be "self-disciplined" (verse 2d).
- E. He must be "orderly" (verse 2e).
- F. He must "welcome strangers in his home" (verse 2f).
- G. He must be "able to teach" (verse 2g).
- H. He must not be a "drunkard or a violent man, but gentle and peaceful" (verse 3).
- I. He must not "love money" (verse 3).

2. FAMILY QUALIFICATIONS

- A. He must be able to manage his own family well (verse 4).
- B. He must make his children obey him with all respect (verse 4).
- C. If he manages his own family well, the church members will respect him and trust him to manage the affairs of the church (verse 5).

3. SPIRITUAL QUALIFICATIONS

- A. He must be mature in the faith (verse 6). A young Christian can have a good life, but he will not have the maturity necessary for leadership.
- B. Even though he is mature in the faith, he must not swell up with pride (verse 6).
- C. He must have a good reputation in his community. He should be a man who is respected by the people outside the church. His life should point non-Christians to Jesus Christ (verse 7).
- D. He should never disgrace the Lord and "fall into the Devil's trap" (verse 7).

You may think to yourself that these qualifications are very high. Your prayer for your pastor-husband should be "May the God who gives us peace make you holy in every way and keep your whole being — spirit, soul, and body — free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you will do it, because he is faithful" (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24).

ASSIGNMENT: Study the list of qualifications of a pastor. Pray that the Lord will make your husband the kind of pastor a man should be. If there are areas in your husband's life where he is not obeying God, ask the Lord to work in his life and lead him to do what is right in the sight of God.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank you for the list of qualifications for a good pastor found in 1 Timothy. Help my husband to be the kind of man you want him to be as a pastor. Make him a leader in our community and in our home. Amen.

a person has a real desire to learn to pray, there are ways in which you can help them. They are:

1. Share with them what you have learnt about prayer. Give your prayer testimony.
2. Pray together. You could become prayer partners.
3. Study about prayer and some of the prayers in the Bible. Philippians 1:3-11; Ephesians 3:14-21.
4. Ask the Lord Jesus to:
 - A. Teach us to pray.
 - B. Teach us HOW to pray.
 - C. Teach us WHAT to pray.

Being faithful to pray about everything will be helpful in building up strength in the Lord. You need to ask the Lord to show you his way for your personal life. You will also want to pray for the needs of your family, your church family and the churches in the association and convention. You must be faithful to pray for your husband as he serves as pastor. You know your husband's needs. Pray daily for him and his ability to fulfil his responsibilities. Paul tells us in Philippians 4:6, "Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart." Be faithful in your praying. Bring your needs before the Lord with a thankful heart.

ASSIGNMENT: Write down some of the things you do in your daily quiet time with the Lord. Think about and write down other things that you think would be helpful to use during your quiet time as you become a faithful woman of prayer.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank you that I can draw close to you through prayer. As a pastor's wife, help me to be faithful to seek your will and to pray for my husband as he serves you as a pastor. Amen.

THE PASTOR'S WIFE — A WOMAN OF PRAYER

Scripture To Read: 6:5-15; Ephesians 6:10-13,18; Philippians 4:6
 Scripture To Memorize: Philippians 4:6

As a Christian woman and as a pastor's wife, your success depends on your prayer life. There is nothing that you can do in your own strength. God can do wonderful things in your life as you seek his guidance in prayer. The disciples of Jesus knew the importance of prayer. They asked Jesus, "Lord, teach us to pray." Your prayer today should be, "Lord, teach me to pray." (Luke 11:1).

You are told in Ephesians 6:10 that you are to "... build up your strength in union with the Lord and by means of his mighty power." Verse 13 tells you to "... put on God's armour now. Then when the evil day comes, you will be able to resist the enemy's attacks; and after fighting to the end, you will still hold your ground." Paul continues in verse 18, telling you to "Do all this in prayer, asking for God's help. Pray on every occasion, as the Spirit leads. For this reason keep alert and never give up; pray always for all God's people." So you can see that you must be faithful in your praying in order to stand firm in the Lord. You are to remember to pray for God's people.

You may feel very comfortable with going to the Lord daily in a quiet time, when you study God's word and pray. It is important that you plan a time every day for God's word and prayer. In doing so, you will maintain a close, vital relationship with the Lord. How can you minister to others in his Name without this time each day? In this daily devotional time, it will be good to write down brief notes of the things the Lord is teaching you as you meditate on his word. These notes can be helpful to you later if you are asked to bring a devotional message at a church meeting.

You will be asked to lead in public prayer in church services or meetings. As you pray, remember that you are praying to God and you should not be shy or embarrassed. You are also putting into words the prayers of the congregation or group you are leading. Ask the Lord to take away your fears. Pray in faith, using words which express how you feel about God. Spending time in private prayer will also help you as you pray in public.

Many times you will be called upon to help others learn to lead in public prayer. You will also want to teach them how to speak God's message from the Bible. There are no set rules for teaching someone how to lead in prayer. If

THE GOOD WIFE

Scripture To Read: Proverbs 31:10-31
 Scripture To Memorize: Proverbs 31:30

In our last two lessons, we studied what the Bible teaches about the qualifications of a pastor. As a pastor's wife, you must also apply these teachings to your own life. In Proverbs 31:20-31 you can find special teachings about the life of a good wife.

This message from Proverbs tells us that the capable wife is "worth far more than jewels." She is the kind of woman with whom God is pleased. She is the kind of woman who will work hard and plan well so that she can be a good helpmate as a pastor's wife.

Let us look at Proverbs 31 and list the characteristics of the good wife:

1. Her Relationship with her husband:

- A. She does him good and never harm (verse 12).
- B. Her husband puts his confidence in her, and he will never be poor (verse 11).
- C. Her husband is well known, one of the leading citizens (verse 23). She encourages her husband's good reputation. She does not speak against him in public.

As a pastor's wife, you should be faithful to your husband in all things. He should know you love him. He should be able to trust you completely. You should always be true to your husband — in the things you say and in the things you do.

2. Her Relationship to her work:

- A. She keeps herself busy making wool and linen cloth (verse 13).
- B. She brings home food from out-of-the-way places, as merchant ships do (verse 14).
- C. She gets up before daylight to prepare food for her family and to tell her servant-girls what to do (verse 15).
- D. She looks at land and buys it, and with money she has earned she plants a vineyard. She makes clothes and belts, and sells them to merchants (verse 16,24). She earns extra money to help provide money for rent or other family needs.
- E. She is a hard worker, strong and industrious (verse 17).

- F. She knows the value of everything she makes, and works late into the night (verse 18).
- G. She spins her own thread and weaves her own cloth (verse 19).
- H. She makes bedspreads and wears clothes of fine purple linen (verse 22).

3. *Her Relationship To Her Family:*

- A. She is always busy and looks after her family's needs (verse 27).
- B. Her children show their appreciation, and her husband praises her (verse 28).

4. *Her Relationship To Others:*

- A. She is generous to the poor and needy (verse 20).
- B. She is strong and respected and not afraid of the future (verse 25).
- C. She speaks with a gentle wisdom (verse 26).

Verse 29 tells us that the husband of such a good wife will praise her, saying, "Many women are good wives, but you are the best of them all." The writer of the Proverbs adds, "Charm is deceptive and beauty disappears, but a woman who honours the Lord should be praised. Give her credit for all she does. She deserves the respect of everyone" (Proverbs 31:30-31). As the wife of a pastor, you need to seek to be the woman God would have you to be, in taking care of your family and in working together with your husband in the work of the church. Your "praise" will be your happy Christian home. It will be a testimony of your faith in Jesus to everyone around you.

ASSIGNMENT: Prayerfully list the things you do throughout the day. Are you the kind of wife and mother you should be? Ask God to help you do the things you should to be a good pastor's wife.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank you for my husband and my children. Help me to love them as I should and to do the things that I should do every day to help my home to be strong in Jesus Christ. Amen.

will pay back, says the Lord." Verse 21 sums up these teachings by commanding us, "Do not let evil defeat you; instead, conquer evil with good."

When people are critical of you, ask the Lord to show his power and work in a special way to bring all things right and for good. People will be watching carefully to see how you react to such criticism. If you show the love of Jesus in such times, your Christian testimony will grow stronger. Let the Lord lead you to show his love.

ASSIGNMENT: Write a summary of Romans 12:19-21. Think about ways these teachings should be applied in your local church. Share these with your husband.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank you for such good teachings in your word on how to deal with criticism. Help me always to live as you want me to live. Help me to show your spirit of love when others would criticize me falsely. Amen.

WHEN CRITICISM COMES

Scripture To Read: Matthew 5:11,12; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 18:15-17
 Scripture to Memorize: Romans 12:12

Jesus Christ did not please everyone when he was on earth. Neither will you. You will always find some people who do not like some things you do. You may be sincerely living for the Lord. You may be following the Lord daily and obeying him in all you do. You will never please everyone in your church all of the time. There will be some who will criticize you and your family. Some people might be jealous of you. Others may be seeking to get their own way. You need to be prepared to deal with criticism.

Some of the things you can do to help deal with this criticism of you and your family are:

1. Pray for God's guidance.
2. Ask God to show you if there is a good reason for criticism. If so, ask the Lord to show you what you can do to make things right.
3. If the criticism is without good reason or unjustified, then you should discuss this with the person who has been critical. Try to understand the facts of the situation. Go with a loving heart, seeking God's direction.
4. Pray a specific prayer asking the Lord to help you to understand why a person might say bad things about you. When the Lord gives you "understanding" in this difficult situation, you will begin to know what Jesus means in Matthew 5:1-12, "Happy are you when people insult you and persecute you and tell all kinds of evil lies against you because you are my followers. Be happy and glad, for a great reward is kept for you in heaven. This is how the prophets who lived before you were persecuted."
5. Whenever possible, don't listen to criticism or bad things that people say about you. This will be difficult to do. Romans 12:9-21 gives us good teaching about what we should do when criticism comes. We are told that our love for fellow Christians must be "genuine." We are to "hate what is evil," and "hold on to what is good." Verse 14 tells us to "... Bless those who persecute you; yes ask him to bless, not to curse." Verses 17-19 say, "If someone has done you wrong, do not repay him with a wrong. Try to do what everyone considers to be good. Do everything possible on your part to live in peace with everybody. Never take revenge, my friends, but instead let God's anger do it. For the scripture says, 'I will take revenge, I

THROUGH MY HUSBAND'S EYES

Scripture To Read: Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33
 Scripture To Memorize: Ephesians 5:23

In these verses, you see that you must be like God, with a life controlled by love. You are required to give your life in service to other people just as Christ gave his life for you.

You can live this kind of loving life as an individual. You have further teaching about the way your life should be lived as a wife—a partner to your husband. In Ephesians 5:21, you read that as a married couple, you must "Submit yourselves to one another because of your reverence for Christ." The Scripture points out further that "Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For a husband has authority over his wife just as Christ has authority over the church; and Christ is himself the Saviour of the church, his body." This means that you must willingly follow your husband's leadership in your marriage, home, church and community.

As a pastor's wife, you must be careful to be submissive to your husband. This is the commandment of God. Your husband is the head of your home. He is the one who is in authority over the wife and children. Hopefully, your husband will want to talk with you about the family, home and church. Then, because he will understand your thinking, he can give good guidance to you and your family. He will do what is best for all of you.

As your husband does his work as a pastor, he will have ideas of what you could do, as a pastor's wife, to help him. It would be helpful if you would ask him to explain to you what *he* expects of you as a pastor's wife. He might be glad for you to share with him the things you think God would have you do as his helper in the ministry which God has given to both of you. You will understand each other better and be able to work together in the Lord's work.

Ephesians 5:33 teaches us "... every husband must love his wife as himself, and every wife must respect her husband." These teachings are especially important for the pastor and his wife. Your marriage is a testimony of God's plan for marriage. Being a submissive and respectful wife is a part of your obedience to God. It is a specific way in which you can show God's love in your daily Christian life.

ASSIGNMENT: Read and discuss Ephesians 5:21-33 with your husband. Ask your husband to share with you what he expects of you in your role as a pastor's wife.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank you for my husband, and for the relationship we have in our marriage. Help us to honour you in our marriage by submitting to each other in love. Help us to show love and respect for each other. Let our marriage be a good example of your plan to everyone we meet. Amen.

13. Seek to meet the needs of women in your women's group. Help them in special areas where they need help.

14. Pray with the women of your church for:

- A. The needs of your church members.
- B. The unsaved in your community.
- C. The work of your association and convention.
- D. Your country and its leaders.
- E. The needs of people of the world.

In Hebrews 13:16, we read, "Do not forget to do good and to help one another, because these are the sacrifices that please God." As women minister in your church, they will help to build your church into the unity of one family. Let the Lord lead you as you lead the women in your church. This will help to undergird the Lord's work in your country and throughout the world. Ask the Lord to lead your women to:

- 1. Pray faithfully for pastors, missionaries, seminary students, youth of our churches;
- 2. Pray for "laborers" to be called out to serve the Lord in your country;
- 3. Study the Bible and teach "sound" doctrine in the women's meetings;
- 4. Teach those who cannot read to be able to read the Bible;
- 5. Visit the sick and needy and grieved; and
- 6. Help one another and do good, always giving witness of salvation in Christ Jesus.

ASSIGNMENT:

- 1. List the names of women who can help you learn about women's work in your association and convention.
- 2. Make a list of questions to ask these women so that you can be better prepared to be a leader of women's work in your church. Share this information with others in your group. You might want to write a letter to these persons asking them for more information.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me to see the importance of women's work in my church and in the churches of the convention. Give me a vision of the kinds of ministry the women in our church should do. Help me as a woman to be faithful. Help me to please you by doing good and helping others. Amen.

THE PASTOR'S WIFE AND WOMEN'S WORK

Scripture To Read: Hebrews: 13:16

Scripture To Memorize: Hebrews 13:16

Many of the pastor's wives have said that as soon as they arrived at their new church field, they were given the responsibility of leading the women's work in their church. Some of these women felt well prepared and were willing to serve as a leader to the women. Others said they were not sure what they should do. You will need to understand what is involved in the women's work in your church. You will need to be prepared to be a good leader if you are called upon to lead. If you are not called to be the leader, you will want to encourage those who are leading.

Many of you will be asked to be the chair-lady of the women's group in your church because you are the pastor's wife. If there is no other woman in your church who can do this job, then you should agree to do this job. If there is no leader, the group will not meet. You should begin immediately to train other women in your church to lead in the women's work. Your church will soon have many women who are capable of leading the work of women in your church.

The following suggestions will help you to know some of the things you can do as a leader of women in your church:

1. You should know the kinds of work your church women can do.
2. Understand the importance and purpose of women's work.
3. Careful planning is important as you meet with the women.
4. Encourage the women to learn more about Jesus through personal Bible study and prayer.
5. Encourage the women to visit the lost and people with special needs (sick, needy).
6. Plan times of witnessing with the women.
7. A planned meeting helps in maintaining interest.
8. Be able to tell the women the times and places of meetings.
9. Learn how to conduct a business meeting.
10. Show interest in the women's work of your church, association and convention.
11. Learn about the youth work in your church.
12. Learn how to read the Bible well and be able to teach it.

THROUGH MY OWN EYES

Scripture To Read: Ephesians 4:1-16

Scripture To Memorize: Ephesians 2:10

You are a child of God. God has set certain standards for your life as his child. The apostle Paul talks about living up to those standards in Ephesians 4. He urges you to live your life so that it will measure up to those standards which God set when he called you. Jesus has set the standard for you. His life is your standard. You should pattern your life after his life. You are called to the special work of being a pastor's wife. That is the work God has called you to do. You must ask the Lord to show you the work he wants you to do as a pastor's wife. You have your own thoughts about what you think your life should be. The Lord will show you what he has for you to do, as you seek his will daily.

Ephesians 4:2-6 teaches that you should be always humble, gentle, and patient. Show your love by being tolerant with one another. As you lead in your church along-side your husband, you will want to work with him to build unity in your church. Your church people will feel their oneness in the hope they have in Jesus Christ. You will serve faithfully as a servant who shows the Spirit of Jesus at all times.

Verse 7 tells us that each one of us has received a special gift in proportion to what Christ has given which is to be used to build a strong church. This gift is from Christ. Verse 12 says, "He did this to prepare all God's people for the work of Christian service, in order to build up the body of Christ." The Lord knows that you need this gift. You need his help and guidance to be able to do what he wants you to do in your ministry. You will not do well in your work as a pastor's wife if you try to do things in your own power. As you seek the Lord's help, he will enable you.

God has given to you special abilities or gifts with which to do his work. These "gifts" vary from person to person. Verse 11 says, "It was he who gave gifts to mankind; he appointed some to be apostles, others to be prophets, others to be evangelists, others to be pastors and teachers." In each of these kinds of ministry, spiritual gifts are expressed. Ephesians 2:10 tells us, "God has made us what we are, and in our union with Christ Jesus he has created us for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for us to do." The Lord knows the work you must do to serve him. He is ready to show you what these

duties are. As you live in him every day, he will lead you to do these things to his glory.

Ephesians 4:12 says that you are blessed with spiritual gifts "... in order to build up the body of Christ." The Lord has called you to minister together with your husband in order to build strong churches. You can trust the Lord to give you what you need to be able to do the work he has given you to do.

ASSIGNMENT: Prayerfully think about your own life. How do you "see" your own life as a pastor's wife? What are the spiritual gifts or abilities that the Lord has given to you in doing his work? List these gifts. Ask the Lord to help you use these gifts to serve him in the best possible way as you serve in your church.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, the work you have called me to do sometimes seems too big for me, but I want to do your will. Show me the gifts you have given me for the ministry. Help me to use them to your glory. Amen.

15. Use the spiritual gifts and abilities the Lord has given you to help build up the church.

As you gain experience as a pastor's wife, you might think of other things to add to this list. Share these things with your husband, and listen to his suggestions about other ways you can help in the church congregation.

The apostle Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 14:26,33 that when we meet for worship we should do the things that are of help to the church. He also adds that "God does not want us to be in disorder but in harmony and peace." Hebrews 10:24-25 tells us, "Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another to show love and to do good. Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see that the Day of the Lord is coming nearer." Pray for the Lord to lead you to do those things that are helpful to your husband and church. Be an encouragement to your church family through the way you conduct yourself at church meetings.

ASSIGNMENT: Read this lesson with your husband. Discuss the things which you both think the Lord would have you to do as a pastor's wife in your church.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, help me to be the kind of person I should be while I am at my church. Let me truly worship you. Let me show my love and encouragement to others, especially to my husband. Amen.

THE PASTOR'S WIFE AT CHURCH

Scripture to Read: Psalms 100; 1 Corinthians 14:26,33; Hebrews 10:24-25
 Scripture To Memorize: Psalms 100:5

One of the places where you will want to do what is right as a pastor's wife is at the church. You will want to conduct yourself in such a way as to be a helper to your husband. Use the spiritual gifts and abilities which the Lord has given you. You may take on places of leadership, or you may attend services as a member of the congregation. Remember that you are an example to fellow church members by what you wear, what you say and what you do.

The writer of the book of Psalms tells us that we must "Enter the temple gates with thanksgiving. . ." (Psalms 100:4). As the pastor's wife, you must gladly attend the church services, unless there is illness, a death or some other emergency at home. Your faithfulness in attendance at the services of the church will be an example to others in your church who may feel tempted sometimes to stay away without good reason. Show proper reverence in God's house. Enter the building quietly and worship God. Sit quietly, meditating on God's goodness as the service begins. Do not talk to those around you when the service begins. Sit quietly meditating and praying.

The following suggestions have been given by some pastors' wives of things they can do in the church:

1. Come to the church unless there is illness, death or trouble at home.
2. Come to church services earlier than other church members.
3. Be able to lead a group when called upon.
4. Be friendly with all the people at church.
5. Help with church projects. (cleaning, painting, making bricks)
6. Sit near the front during the services.
7. Remain quiet and pray during the service.
8. Control the children during the service.
9. Encourage late-comers to be on time.
10. Greet visitors before and after the services.
11. Pray for your husband as he preaches God's Word.
12. Know the times of all church services.
13. Help your husband to learn names and faces.
14. Give your tithe and offerings.

THE "MINISTERING" PASTOR'S WIFE:
RELATING TO PEOPLE

Scripture To Read: 50:4-5, 10
 Scripture to Memorize: Isaiah 50:10

When we think of the ministry or the work of the pastor's wife, we think of people. Your ministry as the pastor's wife will be expressed to church members, neighbours, family members, friends and also to people who are not well known to you.

Below are listed several rules which you, as the wife of a pastor, should try to practise in your ministry as you relate to different kinds of people.

1. *The pastor's wife should love all people.*

You should treat everyone the same, not showing special favour to a few. This will not always be easy to do. In fact, sometimes it will seem impossible. Think of the person who is always complaining. Is it easy to enjoy being around someone who is never happy? Or think about the person who always feels it her duty to say bad things about people? Do we like to hear these things? Or think about the woman who does not seem to care about the things of God. After witnessing to her many times without any response to the Lord, will you still try to show God's love to her? What about the person who willfully wrongs you? Will you be happy to forgive that person and pray that you can show God's love in some way? The Lord wants us to show his love to everyone — to those who show love to us and also to those who are not easy to love.

2. *The pastor's wife will need to show sympathy to people around her. Sympathy is showing others that you care about them in their problems or troubles.*

You will be called upon to show sympathy when there is death among your church family. What are some things you can do to show sympathy?

- A. Go to the home and help with the work — such as cooking, washing dishes or taking care of the children.
- B. Sit with those who are grieving and offer comfort.
- C. Pray with the family and friends.

D. Encourage them by reading the Bible with them.

E. Grieve with them.

F. Give help which the family may need (money, food, transport, etc).

G. Visit and pray with them after the funeral is over.

You may be called upon to show sympathy to young people in your church who have family troubles. You can pray for them and ask God to give you wisdom to show love and sympathy to a young person, while still encouraging this young person to honour and love his parents. You may be able to lead this young person to Christ. Help him or her to commit his or her life and problems to the Lord. You can show love and sympathy by listening and praying with them.

3. *The pastor's wife must have common sense. That is, she should know what to do in times of trouble.*

There are no books or rules telling you what to do in times of emergency, illness, death or other troubles. You will need to talk with your pastor husband and make decisions about what you should do if an emergency arises while he is away from home. If you make plans for such emergencies, you will be able to act with common sense and do what is necessary. You must pray daily and ask God for guidance. You will need his help when times of trouble come to the members of your church.

4. *The pastor's wife must show courtesy and kindness in every situation.*

The Lord expects you, the pastor's wife, to show hospitality in your home. He also will expect you to show courtesy in your work in the church, even if you are tired or busy. Your ministry will have special meaning in the little things you do in your relationship with people every day. People will believe you love them if you show this love at all times. This does not mean that you must do everything that a person expects you to do. You must be faithful to show your courtesy and kindness and proper hospitality. This can be done in small things as well as in bigger things.

We have not listed everything that the pastor's wife can do in ministering. However, the above four rules will help you to have a good witness as you relate to people around you.

You may think you do not have much experience in ministry, but God's word encourages you, and he will help you. Isaiah 50:4-5 says "The Sovereign Lord has taught me what to say, so that I can strengthen the weary." It also says that he will give you understanding. Verse 10 of the same chapter

You will probably have other needs to list in your monthly budget. You will need to write down everything you spend money for each month. You and your husband need to plan together how you will divide your income to meet your monthly expenses. You might have to decide to wait a while for something you cannot afford. It is important to set aside an amount of money regularly for any emergency that arises.

It is important to learn to live within the income you receive each month. It is bad for a pastor's wife to complain to church members that her family does not have enough money. Such complaining will cause the church members to lose respect for their pastor's wife. You should not make life unhappy for yourself and your family by begging your husband for things when there is no money to buy them. God will meet your needs. He will help you to plan well, so you can save some money each month for those special things you wish to buy.

The "pay as you go" plan is the best way to buy. Do not get in the habit of charging until the end of the month or of borrowing money from anyone. It is not good to borrow from members of the church. It is not a good testimony when the pastor and his family have debts which they cannot pay.

Second Corinthians 9:8, 12 tells us that "And God is able to give you more than you need, so that you will always have all you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause. . . . For this service you perform not only meets the needs of God's people, but also produces an outpouring of grateful thanks to God." You need to set the example in giving your tithe to the Lord and also in managing the other nine tenths well. The Lord can use you to share what you have with others, causing them to proclaim "grateful thanks" to God.

ASSIGNMENT: Read this lesson at home with your husband. If you already have a family budget, revise and discuss it together. If you do not have a budget, prayerfully consider preparing one.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank you for your promises that tell us that you will provide for the needs of your children. We want to obey you. We trust you to take care of us. We pray that you will supply our needs and help us to be able to help others. Help us to tithe and manage our money well. Help us to set a good example before others. May you receive all the glory. Amen.

ONE WHO HELPS TO MANAGE MONEY WELL

Scripture To Read: 2 Corinthians 9:8;12; Philippians 4:12-13, 19
 Scripture To Memorize: Philippians 4:13

We are speaking the truth when we say that churches usually do not pay their pastors a very big salary. As pastors become better trained in the ministry, people in churches are becoming aware that a pastor must be paid enough salary to take care of his family. Until this situation changes, you will probably receive a very low or medium income as a pastor's family. You will need to manage your money well to meet the needs of your family.

One way you can manage your money well is to make out a budget. You are probably asking, "What is a budget?" A budget is a plan showing you how you can divide your income each month for the various needs of your family. Write this plan in a notebook and keep a record of the way you spend your money each week or month.

In making a budget, the first thing to do is to set aside your tithe (one tenth of your income) to give to the work of the Lord. This tithe can be given to the church once each month or divided into weekly offerings. All of the tithe should be given each month. Sometimes we may be tempted to think, "Oh, I need extra money this month. I will use the tithe money for my needs. I can catch up on my giving to the Lord from next month's income." Don't listen to such temptations. Philippians 4:19 tells us that "... with all his abundant wealth through Christ Jesus, my God will supply all your needs." The Lord will meet your needs as you serve him. It is very important that the pastor and his family set the right example in tithing.

Your monthly budget can include the following:

- Tithe
- Food
- Rent
- Clothing
- Stamps, paper, envelopes and other stationery supplies
- Seeds
- Medical needs
- School supplies
- Other needs
- Savings for emergency needs

continues to encourage you by saying, "All of you that honour the Lord and obey the words of his servant, the path you walk may be dark indeed, but trust in the Lord, rely on your God." Claim his promise that he will help you as your minister in his name.

ASSIGNMENT: Memorize Isaiah 50:2-4, 10. Discuss this lesson with your husband. Think of plans to use in emergencies when he is not at home.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, I thank you for your Word which tells us we can rely on you. Help me as I minister to people in our church family. Let your Spirit teach me what to say. Give me understanding. Help me to do your will. Amen.

THE PASTOR'S WIFE AS HER HUSBAND'S HELPER

Scripture To Read: Galatians 6:2

Scripture To Memorize: Galatians 6:2

One of the greatest ministries you have as a pastor's wife is in serving as a faithful encourager to your husband. He will be standing as a leader before the people of your church with many responsibilities. As a pastor, he must preach God's true message to them. It is his responsibility to teach them how to live Godly lives. He will visit the unsaved and the sick. He counsels with those who have family problems. He will lead the church to grow in size and knowledge and spiritual depth. At the same time, he must be an example before the people, living a life without blame. He will need to know that you are standing beside him, supporting him in every situation.

Galatians 6:2 tells us to "Help to carry one another's burdens, and in this way you will obey the law of Christ." As a pastor's wife, you must help your husband as he carries the burdens of the people, as well as meeting the needs in your church. What are some of the things you can do as your husband's helper?

1. *You must trust your husband with your whole heart.*

He will be able to minister freely if he knows you trust him. Also, he will feel free to talk with you about the burdens of his heart if he knows you take him and his ministry seriously. God will bless your marriage when you give complete trust to one another as husband and wife.

2. *You must believe in your husband.*

Believe that God has called him to an *excellent* and *great* work. Believe that your husband has authority to be the leader of your church, because the Lord has called him to serve as pastor. Let your husband know that you trust him and believe in him.

3. *You must praise your husband when he does well.*

When he preaches God's message boldly and clearly, tell him that you thank God for his gift of preaching. When your husband helps a couple who is having marriage problems, tell him you are thankful for his wisdom. Be faithful to speak encouraging words to your husband. Help him to see the gifts God has given him. People in your church will be

responsible in their work around the house, and also in their school work.

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus, thank you for my home and family. Help me to do the best I can with what I have to keep my home neat and clean. Help me to be a good homemaker to please my family and friends, but first, help me to please you. Amen.

D. If unexpected guests come, offer them water, tea or food, depending on what you have to offer.

4. *Managing your family's schedule or plan for the day:*

- A. Organize the schedule or plans for your family every day.
- B. Plan what must be done to get children to school, to do shopping and to do the cooking and cleaning.
- C. If meetings or appointments are to be added to your normal schedule, plan how you will meet these commitments.
- D. Be sure to ask your husband about his daily schedule, so you can adjust your normal routine, if necessary, to meet his plans.
- E. Ask your children if they have school lessons or work to do. You can help them to become disciplined to do their work.
- F. If your children or husband are sick or an emergency comes, adjust your family schedule to go to the clinic or doctor or take care of them.

5. *Training and disciplining your children:*

- A. Begin their Christian training while they are still very young.
- B. Read your Bible and pray with your family every day.
- C. Listen to their questions about life and growing up. Be prepared to give them good answers.
- D. Play games with your children and invite their friends into your home.
- E. Live out your beliefs, so your children will do as you do. A child learns from a good example set before him.
- F. Lovingly correct your children when they do wrong or disobey.
- G. Encourage your children to help with family work or chores, and to do their school studies. They should learn to take responsibility as they grow older.

Colossians 3:23-24 tells us that "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for men. Remember that the Lord will give you as a reward what he has kept for his people. For Christ is the real Master you serve." You will want to be the kind of homemaker who will please your husband, children and friends in your church. Above all you must do your best for the Lord.

ASSIGNMENT: Make your own list of things you can do

1. to make your house look nice inside and outside.
2. to better organize your daily family schedule.
3. to help your children to become better disciplined and

quick to tell him if something makes them unhappy. He may not hear words of praise very often. Ask the Lord to help you to speak words of praise to uplift your husband's heart as he ministers.

4. *You must speak what God would have you say to your husband.*

Most of the time God will lead you to say encouraging words to your husband. However, sometimes he will lead you to speak a difficult message which your husband needs to hear. Before you share such a message with your husband, pray about it. The Lord will help you to know what to say. He will prepare your husband's heart to receive what you share. The Lord knows that you are the one who knows your husband better than anyone else. He will sometimes use this special close relationship to speak a difficult message or teaching to your husband because it can come from no one else.

5. *You must care for your husband well.*

Your husband has only one wife. You must meet every need he has. You must keep his clothes neat and clean, cook good food, care for your home and children and give yourself physically to him. When he is feeling tired or discouraged, you need to be ready to encourage him with love and closeness. You are God's provision for him.

6. *You must encourage your husband when he is discouraged.*

Most of the time you will be the only person to know that your husband is discouraged. You will need to listen quietly as he shares his frustrations and discouragements with you. Pray for the Lord to encourage him. Offer to pray with your husband about the things which are discouraging him. All during the day, you can pray that the Holy Spirit will encourage him as he meets with friends and members of the church and reads the Bible.

7. *You must be patient when things do not go well.*

Sometimes, when your husband is greatly burdened about matters in the church, you will feel stress in your home or marriage. Be patient and prayerful. Trust the Lord to help you through these times of difficulty in your home. It is best to stay busy with your household and family during these times. The pressures will pass as the Lord deals with them in his own time. Though things will not always go smoothly in your marriage, the Lord will give you and your husband a special closeness as you share his ministry together.

You have a special opportunity as a pastor's wife to bring blessing to your marriage and to your church by being a faithful helper to your husband, "bearing one another's burdens."

ASSIGNMENT: Study the things listed above. They will help you encourage your husband. Begin today to try some of these methods of encouraging him as he serves as pastor.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank you that I can be a special encouragement to my husband. Help me to bear the burdens of the ministry with him with your help. Amen.

LESSON 10

THE PASTOR'S WIFE AS A HOMEMAKER

Scripture To Read: Colossians 3:23-24
Scripture To Memorize: Colossians 3:23

We have already said that a capable wife will take good care of her home and family. As a pastor's wife, you should try to make your home as nice looking as you can, both on the inside and on the outside. You should carefully manage your family activities and encourage discipline in your home. Let us look at some of the things you can do to be a good homemaker.

1. *Caring for your house on the inside:*

- A. Keep the inside neat and clean. You and your family will enjoy your home if you sweep your house, wash dishes and keep everything neat and tidy. Cleanliness is also good for good health. You never know when you might have visitors. Be prepared for visitors by having a clean house.
- B. Your house will look nice and fresh with pretty cloths made for the table and backs of chairs. These can be sewn or crocheted and embroidered.
- C. Pretty pictures or calendars can be hung on the walls. If you do not have frames, they can be mounted on cardboard.
- D. You can pick flowers from your garden to put on the table to brighten the room. Some people like to have green plants in pots to add colour and freshness to the house.
- E. Hang curtains at the windows to add colour and privacy.

2. *Caring for the house on the outside:*

- A. Keep the area around the house neat and clean.
- B. Plant flowers and shrubs neatly around the house.
- C. Keep your house in good repair.
- D. Keep grass and weeds cut back around your house or garden.
- E. Keep rubbish picked up and put away in trash bins or burned.

3. *Showing hospitality in your home:*

- A. Welcome guests and make them comfortable.
- B. Invite guests for planned teatime or meals.
- C. Prepare well ahead of time to serve guests you have invited.

SCRIPTURE VERSES TO MEMORIZE

Cut out only the card that is for the chapter that you have just finished. Begin at the bottom of the page with chapter one. Keep the cards in your Bible or up where you can read and learn them.

<p>Chapter 7 I AM JOYFULL GROWING</p> <p>And we pray this that you might live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God. Colossians 1:10</p>	<p>Chapter 6 MY COMMUNITY</p> <p>Let us not love with words, or tongue, but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3: 18</p>
<p>Chapter 5 MY CHURCH</p> <p>Those who accepted his message were baptized and... they devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:41-42</p>	<p>Chapter 4 MY FAMILY</p> <p>She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her. Proverbs 31:27-28</p>
<p>Chapter 3 MY MARRIAGE</p> <p>At the beginning of creation God made them male and female. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh... What God has joined together, let man not separate. Mark 10:6-9</p>	<p>Chapter 2 MY HUSBAND IS A PASTOR</p> <p>I have appeared to you to appoint you as servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you. Acts 26:16</p>
<p>Chapter 1 I AM A PASTOR'S WIFE</p> <p>I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139: 14</p> <p>We are therefore Christ's ambassadors. 2 Corinthians 5:20</p>	<p>Chapter 1 I AM A PASTOR'S WIFE</p> <p>If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. 2 Corinthians 5: 17</p>

GUIDELINES FOR MY DAILY BIBLE STUDY

BEGINNING WITH A PLAN

1. Choose one of the gospels to begin your daily Bible Study. Plan to read the entire book and study it chapter by chapter. Begin with the book of Mark which has only 16 chapters.
2. Set aside 15 to 30 minutes a day for your study. You can do this along with your prayer time or at another time. The important thing to remember is to do it each day.
3. Follow these steps for studying the first book.
 - 1) Begin with prayer and ask God to reveal His word to you as you study it.
 - 2) Read the whole chapter and think about the meaning as you read. It may be helpful to read it out loud.
 - 3) Go back to the first group of verses that explain one event or thought and read them carefully. Some Bibles have each chapter already divided into subjects.
 - 4) Ask yourself questions about what it says: who is this talking about? what are they doing or saying? when is this happening? where are they?
 - 5) Then read that group of verses again and write in your own words what it says, telling the event or teaching in a few sentences. (See the example on the back.)
 - 6) Continue this way, reading each group of verses or thought, thinking about what it says and writing the meaning down in your own words.
 - 7) After you have finished the chapter, read the whole chapter again. You will now understand it even better.
 - 8) Select what you think is the most important verse. This is called the "key verse", the one with the main truth or teaching. Think about it. Read it again carefully. Mark it in your Bible. You may want to memorize it.
 - 9) Write the words "Key Verse", chapter and verse numbers, and tell how you can apply it in your daily life.
 - 10) Close your Bible study with prayer. Ask God to bless your study and help you apply it in your life.
 - 11) Think on the key verse throughout the day, writing it in your heart and mind.

AN EXAMPLE OF A DAY'S STUDY

MARK - Chapter 1

vs.1-8 - The gospel about Jesus. John preached the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, fulfilling the Old Testament prophecy. He baptized in the Jordan River, near Jerusalem and many people came. He wore simple clothes and ate locusts and honey. His message told about the coming of Jesus.

vs.9-12 - Jesus came from Galilee and John baptized him. God sent his Spirit on him and said, "You are my Son". The Spirit led Jesus into the desert where he was tempted by Satan for 40 days, then angels came to minister to him.

(Finish the chapter in this way, dividing the verses by their thoughts and telling what they say. If the chapter is too long continue your study the next day.)

Key Verse: 17- Just as Jesus called men to follow him, he has called me to follow him. He promised to make me a "fisher of men", helping me to bring others to know him as I know him.

HELPS FOR MY DAILY PRAYER TIME

GETTING READY

1. Choose a time that is best for you each day when you can have some time without interruptions. Write the time you have selected and do your best to keep it each day. "Morning by morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; morning by morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation." Psalm 5:3.
2. Find a good place where you can be alone and not be disturbed by others. "When you pray, go into your room, and close the door and pray to your Father." Matthew 6:6.
3. Take your Bible, hymnbook, pen and notebook and prayer list and be ready to talk with God. "Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law." Psalm 119:18.

TALKING WITH MY FATHER

1. Begin by worshipping God. Praise him with a song or read a Psalm. Begin with Psalm 1 and read a different one each day until you have finished all the Psalms.
2. Meditate on a verse or two in that Psalm. Think about what it means. Then tell God how much you love him. Thank him for all he has done by naming your blessings.
3. Ask God to search your heart and confess any sins that the Holy Spirit reveals to you, naming each sin.
4. Pray for your personal needs and those of your family, both physical needs and spiritual needs. Mention each person by name and their specific need. List these in your notebook. Give thanks as they are answered.
5. Pray for your church, your community, your country. Be as specific as you can, giving the name and the need.
6. Wait on the Lord. Listening to him speak to you is as important as your speaking to him. Allow enough time to hear with your heart and mind. Rejoice in His fellowship. "The prayer of the upright pleases him". Proverbs 15:8b.

STRENGTHENING MY TALKS WITH GOD

1. Use your notebook to keep a record of your prayer times. Keep a list of prayer requests made with the date begun, the results and the date answered.
2. Keep a few pages to write down names from the Bible that describe God. Have other pages to list names for Jesus. Use these in your times of praise and thanksgiving. Write out some of your prayers. This helps you grow.

