**A PASTOR’S PERSPECTIVE**

**1 Tim 1:12-14 *And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry ; 13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. 14 And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.***

**INTRO.:** A. I got saved when I was 22 years old in 1956 and a year later went into the army and spent the next 2 years in Germany courting a young lady through the mail I had met the night I got saved and saw her at Youth for Christ meetings but never dated. We courted by mail. After coming home we were married a year later and in 1958 God called me into the full time pastoral ministry in my home church where we were working with the young people.

 B. I spent the next 4 years in Bible college (BAPTIST Bible SEMINARY) in Johnson City, NY) and pastored a church part time about 60 miles away. This was a VERY RURAL church. We had a little baby girl and lived in a 31 ft. long trailer. God wonderfully supplied our needs and the church grew. After graduation I received a call from 3 churches and chose to go to DeRuyter, NY – a town of 700 population. From there we moved to Md. and pastored another church in Glen Burnie.

After about 7+ years there God called us to Fairless Hills, PA where I pastored for the next 31 years. Then due to health reasons I had to resign and go “on the road” preaching and teaching wherever the Lord opened the door. Last year I had to stop travelling as much due to my wife’s health issues. So, here I am today.

 C. Today I will attempt to give you some ministry secrets and **“A PASTOR’S PERSPECTIVE.”**

**I. A TYPICAL PASTOR’S DAY:**

A. Starting the Day with the Lord:

1. After reading a Bible passage I would often read a sermon from C.H. Spurgeon… gleaning a lot of theology along the way.

2. After that I would spend time praying concerning the needs of my family of a wife and 4 children and the needs of the church family.

**NOTE:** For us morning family devotions were not ideal. We did devotions after the evening meal. ( since our kids were small we often used **The Bible in Pictures for Little Eyes**)

 B. Starting the Day in the ministry:

1. I would try to take **Monday** off to spend with my family (I had to learn that the hard way) & my wife basically raised the kids, tended the home and cooked, etc.

2. When the Lord showed me I was to be the head of the HOME before the head of the CHURCH, things changed drastically.

**II. A TYPICAL PASTOR’S WEEK:**

**ILLUS.:** Actually there is NO “typical” Pastor’s week, with weddings, funerals, meetings, correspondence, counselling, planning the church calendar, etc., etc.

A. Now for the Work Week:

1. **Tuesday** I would spend the morning in the office, planning special days, answering correspondence, phone calls, etc. and then do hospital and home visitation in the afternoon. (I would do some Wed. night message prep Tues. night)

2. **Wednesday** I would finish up my notes for Wed. night along with visuals, handouts, etc. Usually I would do a verse-by verse study on Wed. nights thru a Bible book

**NOTE:** I was an expository preacher heeding the Scriptures admonition to ***“preach the Word”*** not just preach about the Word, or ride a hobby horse, etc.

**3. Thursday** I would work on my Sunday night message in the AM, visit in the afternoon, and go on church visitation on Thurs. night

4. **Friday** I would finish up my Sunday morning message and give my sermon titles & other material to my secretary for the Sunday bulletin

5. **Saturday** was Bus Visitation in the morning, hospital and other visitation in the afternoon and if possible take a couple of hours with my family (who often went on Bus Visitation with me) – Sat. night I would prepare my S.S. lesson.

6. **Sunday** began with meeting with Bus Workers, encouraging them, fellowshipping with them, etc.

 a. I tried to keep from having counselling sessions after the AM service

 b. I would schedule them (almost weekly) after the PM service

 c. Sunday usually began about 7AM at the church and usually ended about 10PM