

A COMMON VISION AND MISSION TO ADVANCE THE GOSPEL

Pastoring the Church Today

"² Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock" (1 Peter 5:2-3).

Pastoring is a tough, demanding assignment, one that is not always very well understood or appreciated. The term "pastor" comes from the Latin word for "shepherd," the metaphor used in both Old and New Testaments for one responsible for God's people. The primary shepherd/pastor is the Lord himself (Psalm 23).



CTpastors.com encapsulates today's widening role by identifying six categories into which fit all its articles on pastoring:¹

Lead - A shepherd leads the flock. This requires defining the realities facing the congregation, and knowing and applying the resources available, determining what direction to go, and helping the congregation know what steps to take.

Preach - A shepherd is the voice of God and the most visible part of pastoring is the upfront teaching and preaching, while the most invisible part is how a pastor's words are used by God's Spirit to transform those listening. Bringing a timely and truthful message demands preparation, knowing the Scripture, knowing the audience, and knowing how to connect with the congregation.

¹ Within these 6 categories, there are 52 subtopics in CTpastors.com that further define the myriad elements of a "pastor's role."

Pray - A shepherd engages in spiritual warfare. That means tending your own internal life: your relationship with God, the health of your soul, emotions, attitudes, ambitions, and temptations. It's consciously living in the presence of God, with prayer the primary means of doing that. Being a pastor means bringing truth and grace and transformation to the human soul, starting with your own.

Disciple - A shepherd follows after Jesus, and strives to fulfill Jesus' command to go and make disciples, and that means the pastor is the living example of a living faith.

Reach - A shepherd lives out a life of faithfulness, which includes finding ways to take the good news to wherever people are, whether they are in another neighborhood, another culture, another language group, or another country. A pastor's role includes extending ministry to those who need it most.

Manage - A shepherd is also involved in administration, which is the same root word as "ministry." Caring for the people holistically means caring for the health of the congregation, taking care of the systems, the facilities, the finances, and laws that affect them, and keeping the flock safe, legal (if possible), and financially sound.

Very often, we envisaged the pastoral role as a simple, uncluttered role. It is not. Pastoral ministry is more complex than that which transpires in the few hours that the congregation encounter at the pulpit. The theological landscape faces new challenges in an increasingly pluralistic population, rendering most pastors (and leaders in a shepherding role) virtually incapacitated, their energy and efforts expended in managing and asserting a sustainable pastoral care for the congregation. It is a multifaceted responsibility, accomplished only by the power of the Holy Spirit.

May we keep our pastors and pastoral leaders in prayer and in appreciation!

Blessings, on the behalf of the Co-Labourers in the Singapore Baptist Convention,

Rev. Dr. Bobby Lee

Executive Director

Gospel Partnership

Andrew Tjang, Mission Director

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

Philippians 1:4-5 (NIV)

FOMOS Gathering at our Baptist Centre



The word 'partner' is from the Greek "*koinonia*", which means 'to fellowship' or 'joined together'. SBC Mission is a member of the Fellowship Of Missional Organisational of Singapore (FOMOS), which was joined together for this very purpose in Christ for the Gospel.

On 24 May 2017, FOMOS members came to the Baptist Centre to touch on the topic of "Mobilizing Millennials." Millennials typically range from 15-35 years of age. They possess characteristics such as: multitasking, having an adventurous spirit, enthusiastic about advancement, digitally connected, fond of collaboration, corresponding well with authenticity, and possessing higher education.

It is our hope to see more millennials being involved in missions, by giving them opportunities to speak on ministry planning and development. Short-term mission trips are a key starting point for millennials to eventually go on to serve for long-term missions.

En Guang Fellowship

We praise God for our mainland Chinese ministry. In the month of May, 3 persons have accepted Christ, and another had his faith reassured. Follow-up meetings will be conducted to help grow and strengthen them in their walk with God.

