

(Continued)

When I graduated from Kentucky Christian College in '72 the Directory Of The Ministry, which I had on hand listed the following Stats in the U.S.A. as compared to the present Stats in '02 Directory:

	1971	2002	GROWTH
Church Members	1,024,734	1,189,787	165,053
Foreign Missionaries	658	961	303
Congregations & Agencies	5,299	6,595	1,296
Pulpit Ministers	4,148	5,449	1,301
Associate Ministers	465	3,152	2,687

Our growth record for these 30 years per congregation is only .83 church members per year. This means that the average congregation in the U.S.A. does not have even one addition yearly.

Why has it been that our Christian Colleges which once were our source of training Pulpit Ministers, and now has better facilities, more money with which to work, and more teachers with doctorates on the campuses are producing many graduates - but seemingly we are not getting the job done that Jesus asked us to do. That, of course, was to evangelize the lost world. We have more Associate Ministers and yet fewer converts than when the one Pulpit Minister was his own Youth Minister, Secretary, and even did some of the custodian work at times.

Also in a recent report it was stated that the reason for the lack of growth within the church was: 1) 80% of ministers were discouraged 2) 84% of ministers' wives were depressed 3) 33% of ministers consider the ministry to have been an outright hazard to their families 4) 40% of ministers were suffering from burnout, frantic schedules and unrealistic expectations 5) 47% of ministers' wives- suffering from burnout, frantic schedules and unrealistic expectations.

Besides the above:

1) Financial burdens are very common 2) Most ministers are heavily in debt due to past college/seminary expenses 3) It is estimated that 1,500 ministers leave their pulpits each month, due to moral failure, spiritual burnout or contention within their local congregations.

Someone said, "The reason for church attendance declining and minister dropout rate increasing is 'A Lack Of Support From The Pew'". Could we as church members do the following to change the situation:

1) Pray daily for our stagnate situation 2) Strive to begin training to be a "soul-winner" 3) Fill our life with love so that it will draw people to Jesus just as flies are drawn to honey more than drawn to vinegar 4) Make the Church Service Schedule #1 on our priority list 5) Endeavor to be supportive of our minister(s) by; a) Praying for him daily b) Inviting him and his family to your family gatherings c) Recreating him (take him along) d) Being a personal friend to him e) Seeing to it that people do not gossip about him f) Making certain that he is compensated fairly for his labors

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