



Samford University

Center for Congregational Resources

The Power of Pastoral Presence

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 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; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. 1 Peter 5:1-4

One of the pastors in the video said, “pastoral presence reflects that God visits His people.” How have you personally experienced God’s presence through the presence of a pastor or minister?

What are some of the main difficulties you face that can hinder a ministry of presence?

Our culture often values busyness and efficiency over all else. Have you ever felt pressure to skip or shorten a pastoral visit in the name of getting something else done instead? How do you balance the pressures of administration with the relational side of pastoral ministry?

Where might God be leading you to slow down and sit with your sheep? Where might He be slowing you down to sit with Him?

Good Shepherd, you delight to be with us. When you walked the earth you were never in a hurry. You have given us this ministry to care for widows and orphans, to bear one another’s burdens, and to set an example in holiness for all who would look to us. Before we can reflect your presence when we visit our people, we must know what it is like to be with you ourselves. Lead us by the still waters, Lord. Feed us and guide us, so that we might be strong and gentle under-shepherds to your people. Amen.