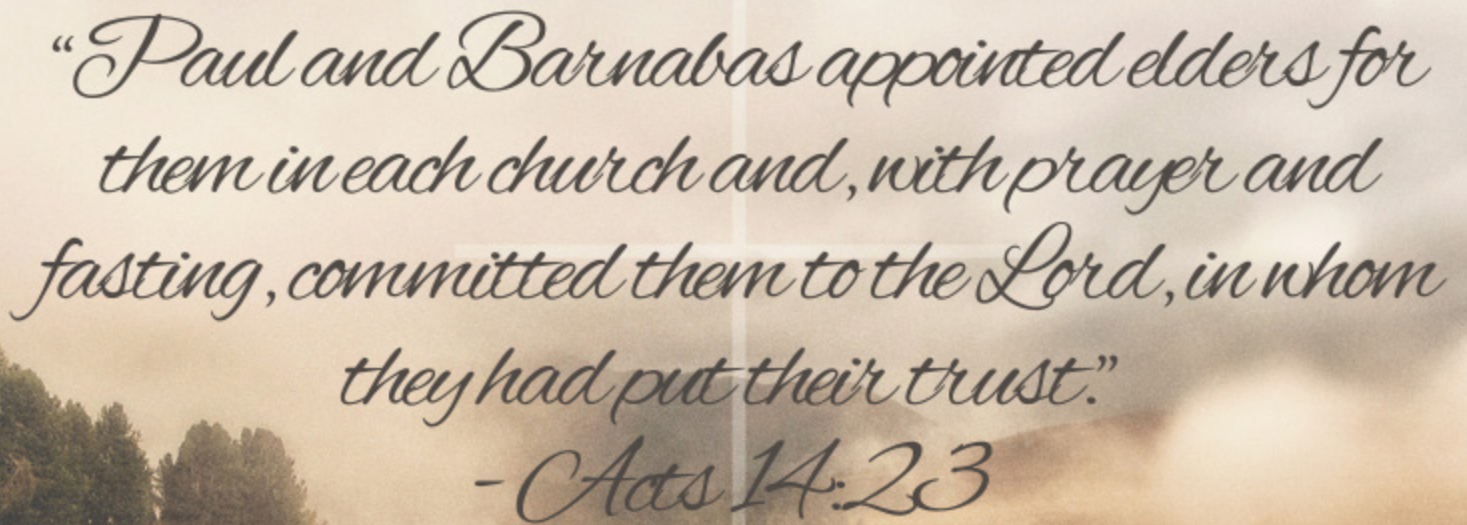




PATHWAY NEWSLETTER

IN THE KNOW

OCTOBER 2023



“Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.”
- Acts 14:23

MARK THE CALENDAR

Pathway Warm-up
Community Event

October 31, 2023

SBC Course
Community Event

November 17 + 18, 2023

Baptism
Church Event

November 19, 2023

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A PASTOR

ROB HASLAM

You only work one day a week!

I hear that quite a bit. Said with tongue in cheek, it's a comment usually thrown out there to wind pastors up, but to a certain extent, it is believed at some level that the pastor's life is simple comparatively. The life of a pastor is all coffee shop visits and peaceful reflection, waiting for the telephone to go or the email or text to be sent, when a crisis arises in the life of someone in the congregation.

Maybe the simple side of me had hoped that's what it was about, but that's not really what it's like at all! The pastor of a church has a very high calling. This calling results in times of great joy, but also times of great, ongoing difficulty and the risk of burnout. Unlike most careers, 'pastor' does not have a fixed job description or normal office hours. He can find himself on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and subject to unrelenting criticism and unrealistic expectations while also experiencing meaningful encouragements and collaborations. Below is a general idea of what a day may look like in the life of a pastor. Every day can be different, and I have yet to establish a set routine in my ministry, but hopefully you'll get a flavor of it.

Morning Time: Rise and Shine

I generally get up between 7:30am and 8:00am. Every morning is the same routine - up, remind my wife she is gorgeous, look through some Instagram reels, check the news, get washed, dressed, and out the door to head to the office.

8:30am: The Church Office

Down to the church office to get a start on the day before the rest of the staff come in. This is an opportunity to have a quiet time with the Lord and focus on things that require focused attention.

10:00am: Staff Connection or Ministry Connection

Catch up with one another's personal lives and the work that each of us is involved in. Recap on work done, priorities set for incoming weeks.

This is also a time when relationships are fostered with other ministries. Hearing about what God is doing locally and across the world.

10:30am: Admin.

Check and respond to emails; every day is different so it could be coordination a committee meeting or responding to requests from outside groups or organizations. A pastor spends a lot of time communicating with people outside of Sunday!

11:00am: Sermon Prep

Begin to get my resources together to begin studying the passage for next Sunday's message.

12:00pm: Lunch Meeting

It can be very difficult to find time in the evenings to meet with people, so lunch becomes a convenient way to connect with Pathway people and learn what is going on in their lives. It is also an opportunity to connect with church leaders regarding areas of importance.

1:00pm: Sermon Prep

Time to get stuck into some sermon preparation. A sermon can take me anywhere from a couple of hours to a couple of days to get nailed down. I read through the text a couple of times and pray about it before reading an exegetical guide, and then commentaries and books on it. I highlight the key thoughts and themes that commentators are bringing out before thinking about what

God wants me to share with the church this Sunday. Sometimes nothing stands out, and it might not be until the end of the week before a message has really started to come together. At least one cup of coffee or green tea will be consumed during this session!

3:00pm: Appointments

Most of these appointments are consumed with marital struggles, addiction issues, criminal activities, or general life coaching. As you can imagine, they range from day to day and situation to situation. They also often require a very quick mental transition to be able to be present in the moment.

4:00pm: Meeting prep.

Have a meeting later this week and need to be ready for it. This often involves checking over minutes of a previous meeting, emailing, or texting team members, or preparing a devotional thought to open the meeting with.

5:00pm: Dinner

This is our opportunity for connection. We generally cook together partly to be a team, but also because we both get tired of thinking about what to make for supper. We chat about our day and end up enjoying slowing the day down for a moment of peace.

7:30pm: First Evening Commitment

Often an evening is taken up with either committee meetings, pastoral visits, premarital coaching, or a combination of them.

Just because a pastor calls to visit does not mean something is wrong! It is our responsibility to encourage and minister to members of God's family, both in times of great need and in times of plenty. Though, it must be stated that it is very difficult to meet with everyone that desires a connection.

9:00pm: Second Evening Commitment

It does not happen that I have two meetings in the evening all the time but frequently enough to note it. Trying to squeeze in two evening commitments in one evening is difficult, especially if there's travel time between the two, but being in the car gives me time to pray and ask the Lord to help clear my mind for the next commitment.

10:00pm: Downtime

I arrive back home, buzzing about how God is working in the life of the family I just visited and giving thanks for the steadfast faith of the person suffering in the hospital. There are times when it is a very difficult situation where hope seems far off. I struggle to switch off so snack on something and watch a program.

12:00am: Bedtime

I get into bed and think about the things I've to do tomorrow: more sermon prep in the morning, I have the afternoon off, and then a Lead Team meeting in the evening. Then in only a couple days it'll be Sunday again!

I hope that's given you a sense of how my day can often pan out. I'm sure it's different for other people depending on their church and responsibilities, so my day may not necessarily be the standard. But what is standard is that all these responsibilities must get managed. If it were left up to paid pastors alone, the work would never be done adequately, people would feel a lack of care and pastors would burn out. Paul understood this when he gave instructions to Titus and Timothy regarding establishing Elders in the church. With Elders meeting the Biblical qualifications, ministry can be multiplied and more effective. The truth is that where there are strong functioning Elders; needs will be met, the church stays on mission and the people grow towards Jesus.

A CALL TO PRAYER

Scripture encourages us to pray continuously and that is no different in the arena of elders and eldership. We are to pray for our elders, that they would lead us well and that we would honor them.

Hebrews 13:17-18

“Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. Pray for us, for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably.”

We have been told to pray for them so that we would be blessed by their leadership. Also, Scripture encourages those who would desire to be an elder that it is not a bad thing.

1 Timothy 3:1

“This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work.”

It is good to desire a good thing but, we must do so through much prayer and seek the Lord.

Pray for your elders that they would lead you well and pray about being an elder if it is something God has laid on your heart.

- Pastor Andrew

PATHWAY WARM-UP

MISSIONS TEAM - MARVIN KLASSEN

Pathway Warm-up is an annual event on October 31st, where we get to go out into the community serving people and showing God’s love to the people in our community where they are. We want to be the hands and feet of Jesus by following His example of going to the people whether it’s in their homes, their businesses or on the street. This lets the people of the community know who we are as a church, that we are here for them, and love them as God loves them. We hand out hot chocolate, glow sticks and candy to people who are trick or treating. This year, we will have two warm-up locations in Winkler. Through this event we have been able to serve and bless approximately a thousand people in our community each year.

We will be looking for volunteers to help us out at Pathway Warm-Up. This is a great opportunity to get to know our own church community as we serve together in this outreach. Find the sign up on the church app.

