



Dear Pastor,

It's seldom that we get the opportunity to thank someone in advance for the good he or she is going to do. Today though, we want to take this opportunity to thank you -- in advance. There are already plenty of things we could thank you for -- the time you take preparing your weekly messages that encourage us to draw closer to God, to give our utmost for the One Who gave All, and to face our own weaknesses with Truth and forgiveness. There are also the myriad of other things you have already done for our church family -- some have been noticed, but most have gone unnoticed. Many will never even be known to anyone but you and God.

But, we wanted to take this time to thank you in advance. In the future, Pastor, it's most certain that you will celebrate some joy with us: the birth of a child, a prayer request answered, a child going off to college, a son or daughter returning home from military service from some distant shore, loved ones saying "I do". We feel sure, too, that in the future, you will stand with us in trying times. You will weep over our sorrows with us, and you will hold our hands when we don't know where to turn. You will pray for us that God will give us solace, even as you summon up courage to speak gentle peace quietly into our lives. It's most assuredly pastor that in the coming days, you will kneel down upon your knees and lift your heart to God -- not on your own behalf, but on ours. You will call out to God to ease some suffering, some pain, some sorrow. You will lift your eyes toward heaven and make a plea on our behalf -- we may be too busy with life to even notice -- to take the time to say, "Thank you, Pastor". So, we wanted to say it now -- in advance.

For now, because we may forget later, we offer this prayer up on your behalf:

Dear God, Thank you for our pastor. You sent this pastor to shepherd us and to mentor us, to teach us and to correct us, to help keep us on the straight and narrow. Our pastor makes a lot of sacrifices, most of them we don't even know. But, Lord, You know. Help us to be more aware of our pastors' needs. Of the hurts and sorrows carried to You on our behalf. When our pastors' family needs prayer, remind us to return the favor. Help us to be more loving toward our Pastor and first family; to be less critical; to be more sensitive to Pastor's needs; to speak words of encouragement to and about Pastor -- and to never carry tales and gossip concerning Pastor and our First Family. Thank you for our Pastor and pastor's family, Lord. Bless, keep, and protect -- always in Jesus Name. Amen.

Please be encouraged today, Pastor.

Sincerely,