

October 2024

Dear Pastors, Friends, and Partners of Selah International,

***“Remember (be mindful of) them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end (results) of their conversation (way of life).”  
(Hebrews 13:7)***

In this passage, the author of Hebrews strongly urges us to be mindful of those who are faithfully feeding us from God’s Word and encourages us to imitate their faith. **Take note of the results of the faithfulness of your pastor and share those with him!** The month of October is Pastor Appreciation month, and this is what our ministry is all about. Our heart is to strengthen the hearts of men and women in ministry and provide a safe place for healing when they find themselves in difficult and perplexing challenges. **No one can encourage a pastor like one of his own flock.** I encourage you to intentionally support your pastor and pastor’s wife. **Come beside them as allies in the spiritual battle for the souls of men.** Here are a couple of specific areas you can target as you fervently pray for them:

- Pray that your pastor will see their world from God’s perspective. *“The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.”* (Proverbs 15:3)
- Pray that your pastor will be consistent in the spiritual disciplines and care for his own soul. *“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”* (Proverbs 4:23)
- Pray that your pastor will depend on God’s sustaining grace through personal and ministerial challenges. *“Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”* (Philippians 4:11–13)

Over the past few months, we have had the privilege of hosting several local pastors and wives. It is a blessing to get to know ministry leaders that are serving the Lord in the greater Columbia area. It is our desire to encourage and to partner with them for the sake of the gospel. **We were also able to host four other ministry families for personal counseling intensives during the month of August.** It was a joy to see the Word of God transform these dear servants as they worked through struggles with trauma, chronic illness, and even sinful choices.



In September, I spoke for missions emphasis week at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Candor, NC. Pastor Michael Free and the church members have been with us since the beginning of our journey in missions. It was so refreshing to go back home and to spend time with family and friends. A week later, I was able to be a part of a marriage retreat in Delaware at **Middletown Baptist Church where Pastor Josh Massaro and his wife, Alicia,** are doing a wonderful job! This church has become a light to the community, and their love for each other and for Christ is evident.

Our hearts are filled with thankfulness for God’s many blessings including a golf cart that was given a few weeks ago by one of our faithful donors. The property is large and needs to be maintained, so this cart will make transportation easier and work more efficient. We are also thankful for God’s provision in other ways. He has strengthened us emotionally, physically, and spiritually, and has kept us safe and healthy. Please continue to pray for us as we enter a busy season of traveling along with preparing for our Refresh Conference in November.



**The Selah Refresh conference is the highlight of our year.** Please mark November 7th-9th on your calendar so that you can pray for the pastors, missionaries, and ministry leaders that will attend. We believe that God is going to do an amazing work in the hearts of these men and women just as He did last year.

Ministry leader, if you are in need of encouragement and fellowship with other pastors and wives, the Selah Refresh '24 could be exactly what you need. Church members, if you know of a pastor or missionary that could use a spiritual boost, let them know about SR24 and send them the link to sign up. Or better yet – pay for their way to the SR24 so they too can receive spiritual encouragement and an opportunity to glean from others in the ministry .... Here is a QR code to sign them up!



**We are grateful for each of you who faithfully pray, give, and encourage us here at Selah as we care for your ministry leaders. God bless you!**

Only by His Grace,

Chris Phillips