

# PastorCare

West Michigan  
Helping Pastors Soar

June, 2012

My favorite definition of evangelism is one beggar telling another beggar where to find food. My greatest joy as a believer is telling others who are struggling with the challenges of life how they can find hope and help in Jesus Christ.

Over the past decade, God has given me the privilege of coaching and encouraging hundreds of pastors who were going through tough times in their ministry or in their marriage. Many times one pastor I helped told me about another pastor who needed help.



Pastor Silas Pinto recently sent an email expressing his gratitude for our ministry with PastorCare.

*When my friend E.F. told me about your ministry to pastors and how much he had benefited from it, I immediately saw it as a lifeline that could help me through the horrific wars of ministry.*

*I come from a family of twelve pastors and have been in ministry for over three decades. I have seen with my own eyes many hundreds of fallen soldiers of the Kingdom, skillful pastors, injured in the battles of ministry, discarded, with gigantic loss for the Church. Unfortunately there are very few ministries and shepherds like you that do care and are capable to offer support and guidance.*

*I greatly appreciate all the support you gave me in the days of thick darkness when I was alone fighting the demons, real ones as well as emotional ones. You had a way, certainly lead by the Spirit, to call me when I was down and wanting to give up.*

*No money or reward on earth will compensate you for your ministry to pastors. But I am confident that great will be your eternal reward for strengthening soldiers of the Kingdom. May God richly bless you.*

*With gratitude,  
Silas Pinto*

Silas Pinto is a Brazilian pastor on staff in a large white church in Florida. They did not pay him a salary for his ministry to the Brazilian congregation within the church. Here is a sample of the emails I received from him.

*John, Thank you so very much. I know it is hard to believe, but God moves your heart to pray, email or call me when I am going through some special need. I was not able to answer to you yesterday, but when you wrote I was going through a time a frustration with our mother church, despite the fact that God is blessing our ministry in a very special way. But God spoke to my heart and renewed me and brought me back to serve him out of love. I also pray to God for you and thank him for your precious life and ministry. May God richly bless you, Silas*

*My dearest John, Thank you for such great report and giving me the honor to hear what God is doing in your life. I rejoice with you that you are back into PastorCare. God has shaped you through fire in order to help pastors. Few people I know does it so well than you, because you have been there, and you have a shepherd heart. So praise God for the good news. I have some sad news to give. But I am not down, depressed or resentful. The church kicked me out after 8 years, saying I can't be a pastor because I am divorced!!! Of course they knew all along I was divorced. All church documents I am listed as pastor. But because our leaders asked for a salary for me, they said they don't have the money and I can't be a pastor!!!! My initial thought was to abandon ministry and take care of my retirement. But about 25 people left and requested my support. We have met in a hotel in the last two weeks, and are looking for a host church. The demonstration of love and the prayers from God's people have been such that I am not depressed, angry or resentful. I have my moments of sadness, but I have found comfort seeing the love of those around me. Oh! The church of Christ!!!! What a mess? How much politics? So much envy. So much backstabbing. I guess it is part of the price we pay to complete what Christ has to suffer for his church. Please pray for my healing and for a new location for worship service. I will continue praying for your needs as well. Many God richly bless and prosper you, Silas*

*John, Always good to hear from you friend and see that, no matter what, your love for the church always keeps you busy with the Kingdom. I feel the same way. I started going to counseling with a pastor/counselor which has been helpful. I am meeting with a small group of 30 believers for fellowship and teaching the Scripture. Most of the time I am doing well, but there are moments of great distress, or moments of desperation. But God has enabled me to overcome those moments and I keep going. Please continue to pray for me as I also pray for you. Love in Christ, Silas*



Aaron & Sarah, Addison, Alex, and Logan Seaberg; Wes & Co Smith; John & Sue & Andrew Smith Brad and Yvonne Jamieson (our adopted family members) made our Easter celebration extra special.

Thank you for supporting us as we continue to minister to pastors going through tough times. We couldn't do it without your prayer support and financial contributions. **Checks are made payable to PastorCare West Michigan. Please mail contributions to: 1632 Waterbury Dr. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508**

In the grip of His grace!

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