

WHY PASTORS LEAVE THE MINISTRY!

Survey by Dr. Wells, 1996

Statements of Survey Results

1. 20% of all Nazarene Pastors drop out of ministry in the first five years. (highest of any professional group within the Nazarene Educational System)
2. 30% of all Nazarene Pastors drop out of ministry in the first ten years of ministry
3. Nazarene ministers move from church to church on an average of every three years, three months.
4. 80% of all Nazarene Pastors believed that pastoral ministry affected their families in a negative way.
5. 33% of all Nazarene Pastors said that being in ministry was an outright hazard to their families
6. 50% of all Nazarene Pastors felt unable to meet the demands of their job as ministers.
7. 90% of all Nazarene Pastors felt they were inadequately trained to cope with ministry demands.
8. 70% of all Nazarene Pastors said they had a lower self esteem now than they did when they began their ministry
9. 40% of all Nazarene Pastors reported serious conflict with a parishioner at least once a month.
10. 70% of all Nazarene Pastors did not have someone they considered a close friend.
11. 37% of all Nazarene Pastors confessed to having been involved in inappropriate sexual behavior with someone in the church within the duration of their ministry

18.9% leave over sexual promiscuity

15.4% leave over stress and burnout

12.9% leave over negative vote or review issues

10.0% leave over family stresses and situations

9.0% leave over financial inability to continue

7.0% leave over health issues

4.0% leave over theological disagreement

4.0% leave over disagreement with church polity

18% leave for another, undefined issue