

ACTION STEPS

Begin praying for the churches on your Missional Area.

Begin praying for the pastors of those churches.

Spend time with each other through various events.

Look for creative ways to do something special for the church and/or their pastor.

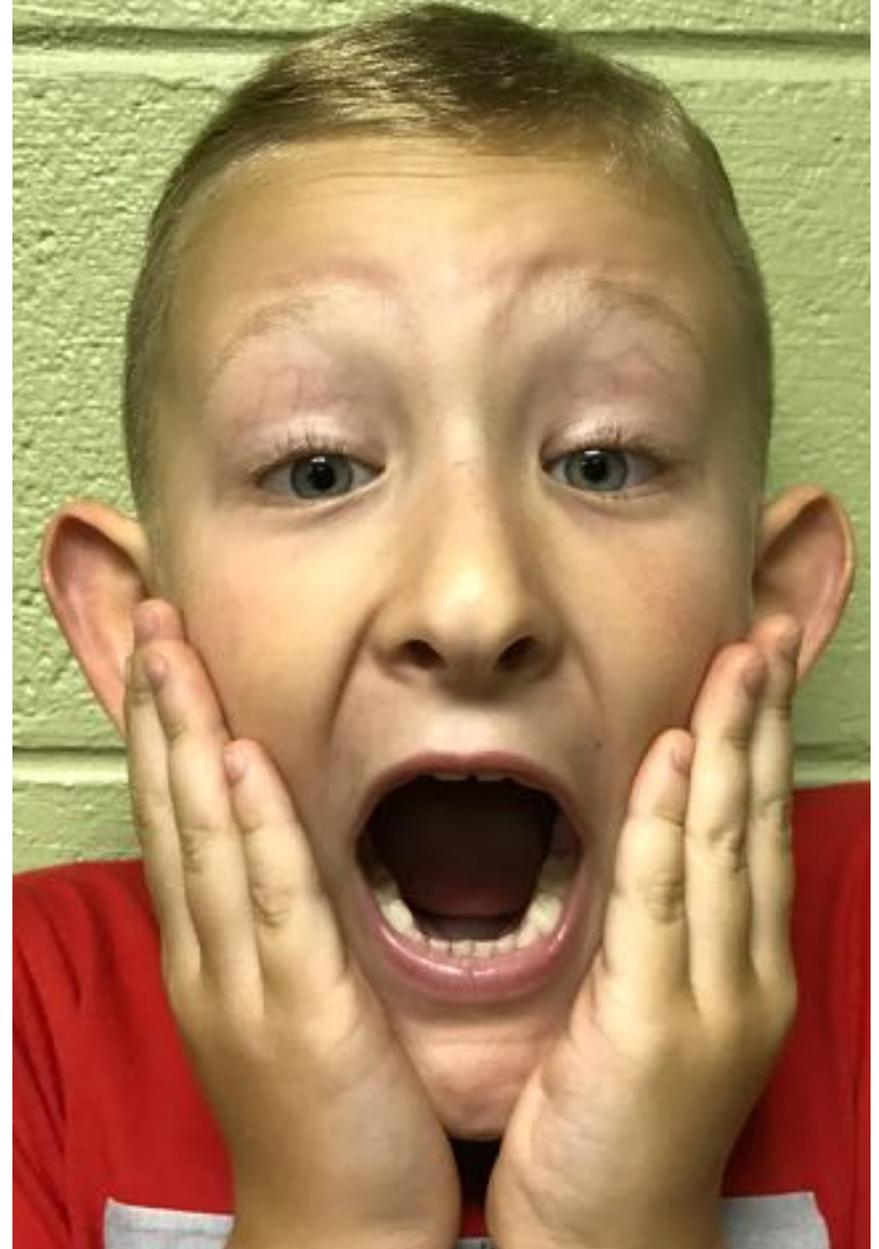
Find out if there is a special need a church has. Contact the church to see if you could partner with them to meet the need in their community.

For help connecting with a church or pastor, please contact your Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) District Council.

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NOT ALONE

Building Relationships Within the Michigan District Team



Do Something Together.

Adopt-a-Church is about living life together with other pastors and the churches they serve. It's about looking for ways to share life and do ministry together. It might be helping with Vacation Bible School, sharing discipleship material, having a meal together, and a number of other things. It's not about a program with rules and guidelines. It's about noticing the opportunities to do life and ministry with others. The possibilities are endless.

Have You Ever Needed A Little Encouragement?

Everyone of us, at some point, has been in a place when being noticed by others and receiving a little encouragement would have gone a long way. When we are there for others in the good times and tough times, it makes a huge difference. One pastor said,

“When a church adopted my wife and I for Christmas one year, it confirmed in us that we had not been forgotten; we really were part of something bigger than our local church.”
- Adopted Pastor

Why Adopt-a-Church?

We are in this together. It is important for pastors and churches to recognize that we are all part of one ministry team. When one hurts we all hurt. When one celebrates, we all celebrate. When one has a need another may have the resources to meet that need.

One church found itself in a season of difficulty. The community around it had drastically changed over the years and the church had tried to meet the demands of ministry in the new context. After their need was made known, another church reached out to help. Several people from that church committed to go and assist. Today, the church is experiencing new life and the community around it is being impacted for the Kingdom in new and fresh ways.

What Stands In The Way?

The biggest barrier we have in coming alongside others, is taking the time to pick up a phone, stop by for a moment, send a note of encouragement, schedule a meal, or show up at an event.

How Do We Adopt-a-Church?

Start simple. Start by making yourself aware of the pastors and churches closest to you. Invite a pastor to breakfast. Invite a pastor and their family to spend the evening with you. Or just decide to do something unexpected for a pastor.

One church invited a pastor and his family to join them for a special service. Little did the pastor know the church had decided to bless them financially. Overwhelmed, the pastor exclaimed to his wife after receiving an envelop of cash, “Now we can fix our cars.”

You never know what God will do with even the smallest act of generosity.

Less About a Program and More About a Way of Living

This needs to be organic in some way. This isn't so much about money but about love and encouragement.

We have to create a culture where pastors and churches are looking for ways to love on and care for other pastors and churches.

This is about helping pastors and their churches thrive.

What Are We Trying To Accomplish?

- Discover the needs of churches and pastors.
- Get to know each other.
- Create a culture of generosity.

How Long Do We Do This For?

This could be a one time effort but what we have found is that one time efforts lead to a desire to continue in the relationship.