

FIVE YEARS OF FANNING THE FLAME

How God Used Your Partnership to Refresh
Pastors, Revive Churches, and Restore Hope

R3 Ministry Network | 2020–2025



A FLAME THAT REFUSES TO BE EXTINGUISHED

A Letter from Greg Joyner:

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Five years ago, God placed a burden on my heart that wouldn't let go. I kept encountering the same story: faithful pastors burning out in silence, struggling churches gasping for breath, buildings that once echoed with worship sitting empty. The statistics were staggering: thousands of pastors leaving ministry, churches closing their doors at an alarming rate, and communities losing gospel light.

I wrestled with the thought. I knew something needed to be done, but how could I help?

That's how R3 Ministry Network was born—not from a strategic plan or a market analysis, but from a simple conviction: the local church matters to God, and therefore it must matter to us. Every burdened pastor deserves someone in their corner. Every church on the brink deserves a fighting chance.



What happened next exceeded anything I could have imagined. You, our faithful partners, caught the vision and fanned the flame with us. You believed that local churches across the USA could thrive again. You invested in challenged and stretched pastors. You gave sacrificially so the gospel could continue to advance in communities across America.

In the pages ahead, you'll meet five pastors and churches whose light was nearly extinguished—but today it burns brighter than ever. You'll see the numbers that tell the story of God's faithfulness through your generosity. And you'll discover where God is leading us next.

This isn't just a celebration of what's behind us. It's a declaration of what lies ahead. The opportunity before us has never been greater—and neither has the need. An estimated 10,000 pastors will retire over the next decade. Leadership transitions will make or break thousands of churches. But R3 is uniquely positioned to help them not just survive but thrive.

Thank you for fanning the flame with us. The best is yet to come.

For the Kingdom,

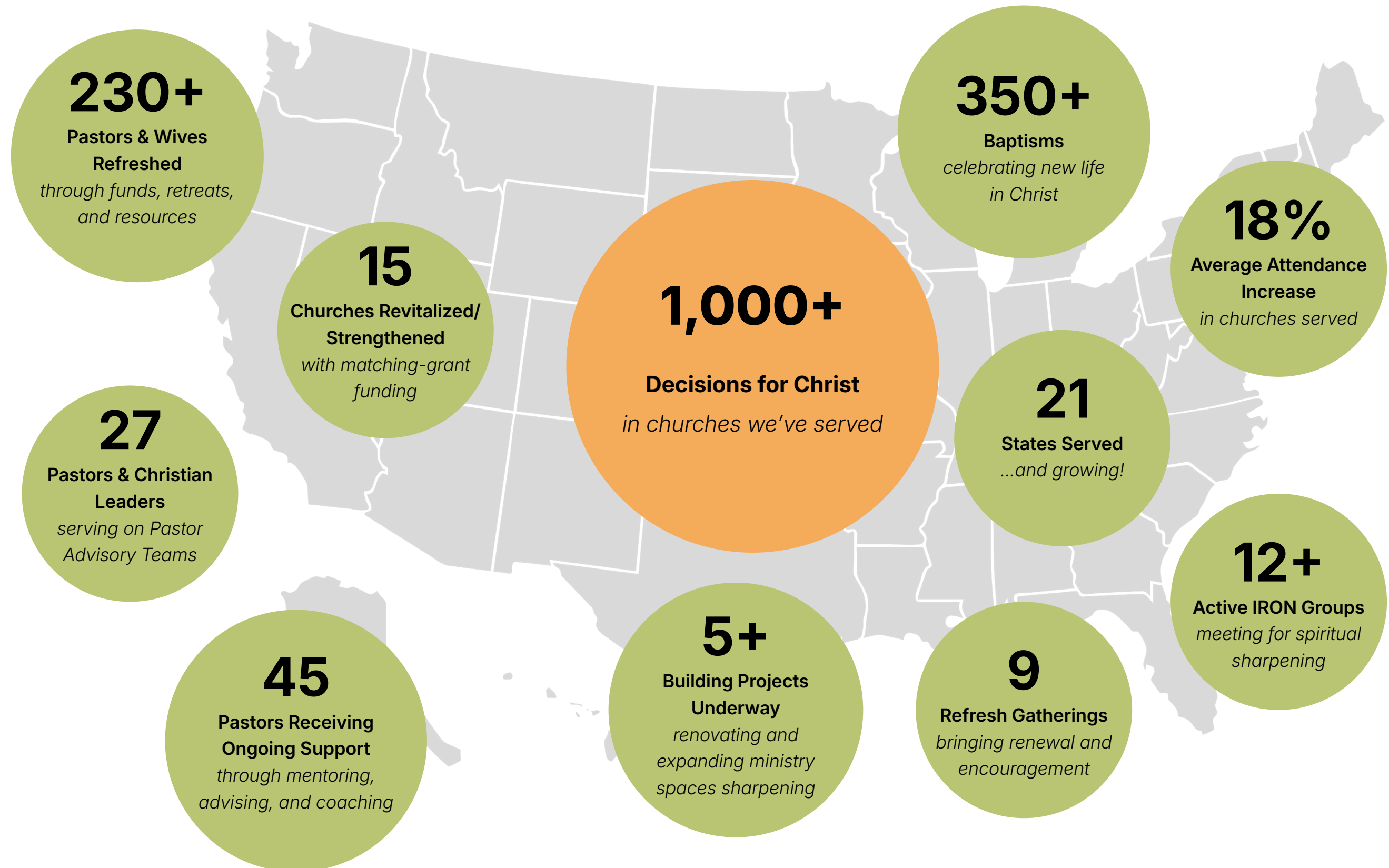
Greg Joyner

Founder & Executive Director

"O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together."

— Psalm 34:3

FIVE YEARS OF KINGDOM IMPACT



FIVE YEARS, FIVE MILESTONES

Tracing God's Faithfulness

OCTOBER 2020 – THE LAUNCH

R3 Ministry Network officially launched with a clear mission: to be Champions OF the Local Church. The vision was simple but bold: refresh struggling pastors, revive plateaued churches, and restore congregations on the brink of closing. The first partnerships formed, the first pastors were encouraged, and the foundation was laid for exponential kingdom impact.

2022 – Building Momentum

The Refresh a Pastor initiative took shape, providing monthly date night funds for pastoral couples under significant strain. Pastor Advisory Teams began forming—seasoned ministry leaders volunteering their wisdom to coach and mentor younger and seasoned pastors in times of transition. The first IRON Groups were launched, creating spaces for spiritual sharpening and authentic fellowship among pastors who desperately needed it.



2023 – Expanding Reach

R3's geographic footprint expanded dramatically, serving pastors and churches across multiple states. The first church revitalization grants were awarded, sparking new life in congregations that had been stuck for years. Attendance began climbing. Baptisms started happening again. Buildings were renovated. Communities noticed. Most importantly, pastors found hope again.

2024 – Deepening Impact

The fruit of years of investment began to ripen. Churches that received support two years prior were now thriving and giving back. Pastors who were refreshed became refreshers of others. The R3 Ministry Action Plan (MAP) process proved itself as a repeatable, scalable model for sustainable church growth. Testimonies poured in of marriages strengthened, ministries restored, and communities transformed.

2025 – Preparing to Scale

With five years of proven results, R3 began strategic planning for exponential growth. The Complete Pastor Lifecycle Model is taking shape—a comprehensive approach to supporting pastors from calling to serving to transitions seminary through retirement. Certification programs are being developed. Digital platforms were designed. Strategic partnerships were formed with Mission agencies and other like-minded pastors and church networks. The vision crystallized: serve 10,000 pastors by 2030.

FIVE FIRES STILL BURNING

Stories of Transformation

"R3 has been a great blessing to me and my family."

I was connected to R3 through Pastor Rick Finley. It was an immediate blessing to us. We were a fledgling church plant in Newtown, Connecticut, and I was working a full-time secular job to help with our household budget.

R3 immediately began sending Refresh funding to Catherine and me, and put together a Pastor Advisory Team (PAT) that proved invaluable. To have the monthly date outing provided for us was a wonderful, unexpected blessing for both of us. We had been so busy that we didn't even notice how much we needed it. It truly proved to be refreshing for us.



Pastor Zach's Story:

A Monthly Breath of Fresh Air and Wisdom

The three pastors who served on my PAT were experienced, wise, caring, and very helpful. I was able to put the takeaways from the sessions to immediate use. We have been blessed as a church. Our attendance is growing monthly. We have witnessed multiple decisions for salvation and performed several baptisms. We are now searching for a property for our own building. We rejoice in God's blessing and are very thankful for R3's partnership, which came at just the right time.

I have since recommended multiple of my pastor friends to seek out the ministry of R3 Ministry Network. They make an immediate difference with an eternal gospel impact.

Pastor Zach Kinsman

New Heights Baptist, Connecticut



<https://www.icloud.com/photos/#/icloudlinks/03fHHMLtsLlw8UFXOF4qrP63Q/>

COMMUNITY BAPTIST:

From Overwhelmed to Overflowing

"We thought it would take years to grow again. We were wrong."

Community Baptist Church had been averaging fewer than 25 active members for some time when Pastor Nick accepted the call to pastor there. The congregation was aging, there were no children for the children's ministry, outreach efforts went nowhere, and a pervasive sense of resignation had settled over the church.

Around that same time, Pastor Nick was connected with Greg Joyner and R3. The Lord's timing is always right on time. The first step wasn't a flashy program or complicated strategy—it was careful listening. Through the R3 Ministry Action Plan (MAP) process, a Pastor Advisory Team spent time understanding the church's unique context, challenges, and unrealized potential.

"They asked questions nobody had ever asked, nor had I thought to ask. This was my first senior pastorate, and it was all new to me." Pastor Nick recalls. "Instead of importing someone else's model, they helped us discover our own path forward."



The breakthrough came when they realized Community Baptist sat in a community full of young families—but had no children's ministry to speak of. With R3's matching grant funding, they renovated unused Sunday school rooms, trained volunteers, and launched a vibrant kids' program.

Within eighteen months, attendance had grown to nearly 100. The average age dropped by more than fifteen years. Multiple people were baptized. The once-graying congregation now echoes with children's laughter every Sunday. Today, just three years later, Community Baptist averages just over 200 in weekly attendance, with 80 children in Community Kids ministries. We recently added another Sunday AM worship service.

"We didn't exactly know what to expect," Pastor Nick says with a smile. "But God did." And R3 helped us see that the church doesn't need to be big to make a big impact. We just needed someone to believe in us and help us take the next right step."

Pastor Nick Holloway

Community Baptist, North Carolina



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=itUN9HXWzO8>

ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH:

The Congregation That Almost Wasn't

"God doesn't waste anything—not even dying churches."

Rocky Mountain Bible Church was near closing. Down to less than 15 members and no pastor. The consensus was to strongly consider closing.

Zack and Angie Sigmon had moved from South Carolina to Brigham City, Utah, to help ministries in a strongly LDS-influenced community and state. They were missionaries with a heart to serve and minister. Rocky Mountain Bible Church asked Zack to fill the role of interim pastor for six months, and the church family voted to approve that recommendation. It was then time to put that calling into action.



R3 would help fund some updates, including the sign, fresh paint, and outreach. A Pastor Advisory Team was formed via video, and another met locally. Eighteen months later, the church had not only stabilized but was growing; the newly minted Pastor Zack and the building enhancements were a great improvement.

Today, three years later, the church is thriving and undergoing a full exterior renovation. See details here:

We are praising and rejoicing with Rocky Mountain Bible Church as the Lord leads them from near-closing to thriving again! To God be the glory for a bright gospel lighthouse in Brigham City, Utah.

Pastor Zack and Angie Sigmon

Rocky Mountain Bible Church, Utah



JIM AND EDNA'S STORY:

How \$50 a Month Changed Everything

"We wanted to know our giving was making a real difference."

Jim and Edna were in their 70s when they first heard about the R3 Ministry Network. They had been generous givers for decades but hadn't always heard about the immediate impact their giving made.

When they learned about R3's Refresh a Pastor program—specifically that \$50 per month would fund half a date night to encourage a struggling pastoral couple—something clicked. "I thought: I spend more than that on coffee every month. What if my coffee money could contribute to strengthening a pastor's marriage?" Jim shares.

Jim and Edna started donating \$50 per month to the Refresh Funds program. Today, they have helped R3 provide breathing room for over 130 couples.

"We take great joy in investing in pastors and churches through R3. We want our giving to make a real difference. The best part is the updates," Jim says. "R3 keeps us informed, and last month, one of the pastor couples was able to enjoy a date outing for the first time in over a year—partly because of the monthly dates our giving makes possible. That's worth more than any investment return."

Jim and Edna's impact extends beyond their direct giving. They've recruited others to become R3 partners. One of Jim's friends has even joined a Pastor Advisory Team, bringing his business expertise to help a young pastor navigate church leadership.

EVANSVILLE BAPTIST:

A Story Still Being Written



"We're not where we want to be yet, but we're not where we were."

Pastor Andrew took the call to Evansville Baptist Church 24 months ago, knowing it would be challenging. And it has been. Attendance was down drastically. The building needed updating. The technology was old and inconsistent, and the exterior signage was dated.

We connected with Greg Joyner and R3 Ministry Network and discovered that the exact help and encouragement we

needed was available. We didn't know a ministry like R3 even existed, but we sure do now, and we know it is needed. While there have been challenges, the Lord has been faithful. With the help of the R3 Ministry Action Plan (MAP), matching grant funding, monthly refresh funding, and a Pastor Advisory Team, the experience has proven to be even more than we expected.



The Evansville Baptist Church family rose to the challenge of the R3 matching grant, and today, we have updated the interior, technology, and exterior of our church. More importantly, we have new decisions for Christ, baptisms, regular visitors, and a renewed excitement within our church family. Rejoicing and looking forward to even greater gospel impact moving forward as the Lord leads.

Check out these before and after pictures here:

Pastor Andrew Harris

Evansville Baptist Church, Ohio

The Next Five Years

FANNING FLAMES ACROSS AMERICA

THE OPPORTUNITY BEFORE US



The need has never been greater. Over the next decade, more than 10,000 pastors will retire from ministry. Many of them serve small churches that struggle to attract replacement pastors. Without intentional support and strategic transitions, thousands of these congregations will close their doors.

At the same time, thousands of young pastors are entering the ministry with inadequate preparation, insufficient support systems, and unrealistic expectations. Many won't make it five years. The burnout epidemic isn't slowing down—it's accelerating.

But a crisis creates opportunity. The same factors that threaten the church also position R3 for exponential impact. We've spent five years developing, testing, and refining models that work. We know how to refresh struggling pastors. We know how to revive plateaued churches. We know how to restore (gospel lighthouses in local communities)

NOW IT'S TIME TO SCALE.

OUR VISION FOR 2025–2030

The Complete Pastor Lifecycle Model



We're developing a comprehensive support system that walks alongside pastors through every stage of ministry—from Bible college and seminary preparation through retirement transition and legacy planning. This means:

- Educational and organizational ministry partnerships providing practical ministry preparation
- First-call pastor coaching in the critical early years
- Mid-career renewal and strategic development
- Pre-retirement planning and healthy succession
- Post-retirement transitioning from full-time pulpit ministry to a new season of continuing gospel impact

Certification and Training Programs

we're developing certification programs that equip retiring pastors to become church consultants and ministry advisors and coaches. This creates a sustainable pipeline of experienced practitioners who can magnify R3's impact nationwide.

A Digital Platform and Scalable Resources

We're building digital tools that allow pastors anywhere to access R3's proven resources, connect with Pastor Advisory Teams and Coaching networks, and receive ongoing support—even in areas where we can't yet deploy in-person teams.

CONNECTED HEARTS:

A Growing Ministry for
Pastors' Wives



Strategic Partnerships

We're forming partnerships with like-minded ministries and networks that share our ongoing commitment to equip pastors and strengthen the local church. These alliances will exponentially expand our reach while maintaining the personal, relational approach that makes R3 effective.



Focus:

Strengthening connections and offering encouragement

Creating resources and ministry supports

Serving ministry wives nationally

THE GOAL:

Serving 10,000 Pastors by 2030

This vision begins not with numbers, but with the greatness of God. What may seem bold to us is never beyond His power or purpose. After five years of God-given momentum and proven impact, we believe the Lord is leading R3 Ministry Network forward in faith—to serve 10,000 pastors by 2030.

When a pastor is refreshed, a church is strengthened. When a church is strengthened, a community can be reached. And when a congregation is restored, generations are disciplined for the glory of God.

If the Lord allows us to serve 10,000 pastors in the next five years—and each leads a church averaging 75 people—we have the opportunity to touch more than 750,000 lives with gospel-centered leadership and renewed hope.

Yet the true impact goes far beyond what can be counted: marriages strengthened, families restored, pastors renewed, churches re-engaged, and communities transformed by the power of the gospel.

As we close this year, we do so with gratitude and faith—not in our plans, but in a great God who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all we ask or think.





KEEP THE FLAME BURNING

How You Can Partner with R3 in 2026 and Beyond

01 GIVE TO FUEL THE FLAME

Your Year-End Gift Multiplies Kingdom Impact

As we close 2025 and look toward 2026, we're asking partners to make their most generous year-end gift yet. Every dollar you invest directly supports pastors and churches that desperately need help.

What Your Gift Provides:

\$50/month

Refreshes one pastoral couple with monthly date night funds

\$100/month

Provides refresh funds or supports a Refresh Dinner for pastor couples

\$500

Helps fund Pastor Refresh Day and resources

\$1,000

Helps fund a Refresh Dinner for pastors and wives

\$2,500

Contributes to matching grants to kickstart church revitalization

\$5,000+

Restores a dying church with renovation and replanting support

Make Your Year-End Gift easily by going to

<https://givebutter.com/LzCgKw>

or scanning the QR code below:



Or mail checks to:

R3 Ministry Network
201 E Main St, Suite 102
Benson, NC 27504

02

PARTNER MONTHLY WITH R3

Become a Sustaining Partner

Monthly partners provide the stable foundation that allows R3 to make long-term commitments to pastors and churches. When you give monthly, you're not just making a donation—you're rejoining a movement.

Monthly Partner Benefits:

Quarterly impact reports with specific stories from your investment

Prayer updates and specific requests from ministry leaders

Regular and eternal gospel impact



03

SPONSOR A PASTOR OR CHURCH



Adopt a Pastor

\$1200 (one year of refresh funds)

Adopt a Church

\$5000 (phase one of a matching grant fund)

Our Adopt a Pastor and Adopt a Church programs create direct, personal partnerships between supporters and ministry leaders. You'll receive regular updates, prayer requests, and testimony reports from the specific pastor or church you sponsor.

This isn't impersonal charity—it's kingdom partnership. You'll know exactly who you're helping and see firsthand the fruit of your investment.

04 JOIN A PASTOR ADVISORY TEAM



Share Your Wisdom, Multiply Your Impact

If you're a seasoned pastor, marketplace, or ministry leader, your experience could change a struggling pastor's trajectory. Pastor Advisory Teams meet monthly (in person or virtually) to coach, encourage, and guide pastors who need your wisdom.

The time commitment is modest: 1–2 hours per month. The impact is eternal. Many of our most successful ministry partnerships began with a volunteer mentor who simply made themselves available.



05 PRAY FOR R3 AND THE CHURCHES WE SERVE



Become a Prayer Partner

Everything we do ultimately depends on God's power, not our programs. We need faithful prayer warriors who will intercede for struggling pastors, reviving churches, and R3's expanding ministry.

Specific Prayer Requests for 2026:

- 50 new churches to partner with R3 for revitalization
- 100 additional pastors to receive refreshment and coaching
- Wisdom and resources for launching certification programs
- Strategic partnerships with key ministry organizations and networks
- Provision for expanding R3's team and operational capacity

Sign up for prayer updates at

www.r3ministrynetwork.org/pray

"Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established."

— Proverbs 16:3

**The flame is spreading.
Will you help us fan it?**

R3 MINISTRY NETWORK

We Fan the Flame of Those Who Light Up the World

201-B East Main Street, Suite 102

Benson, NC 27504

919-307-9870

info@r3ministrynetwork.org

R3 Ministry Network is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

All donations are tax-deductible.