



# THE R3 MONTHLY BRIEF

*Helping pastors lead better so churches grow stronger and the gospel shines brighter in every community.*

 March 2026

Pastoral ministry is one of the most wonderful callings God gives to His people. It is also one of the most demanding.

Week after week, pastors preach the word, shepherd the flock, pray for their people, guide leaders, and walk with families through both joyful celebrations and difficult valleys. Much of this work happens quietly and faithfully, often without recognition.

Yet God sees every act of faithfulness.

The apostle Paul reminds us that the work of ministry is never wasted. Even when the fruit is slow to appear, even when discouragement creeps in, the Lord is at work through the faithful sowing of His word.

At R3 Ministry Network, we believe that when pastors are strengthened and encouraged, churches grow stronger. When churches grow stronger, the gospel shines brighter in communities. Then those communities become even stronger.

Thank you for serving faithfully where God has placed you.

## Leadership Principle from Scripture

**Nehemiah — Vision Inspires People to Rebuild**

### Nehemiah 2:17-18

When Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem, he found a city both broken and discouraged. The walls were in ruins, and the people had lost hope that anything could change.

But Nehemiah first sought the Lord in prayer, quietly assessed the situation, and then gathered the people together.

He said:

“You see the distress that we are in... Come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem.”

Then he shared how God had been guiding the work. The result?

“The people strengthened their hands for this good work.”

***“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”***

— Galatians 6:9

## Leadership Principle

Vision grounded in God's purposes inspires people to act.

## Application for Pastors

One of the most important roles of pastoral leadership is helping people see what God desires to do through their church. When leaders communicate a vision rooted in scripture and mission, people gain renewed courage and direction.

## Where God Is Working

Recently, we connected with a pastor faithfully serving a small church in a rural community. The church had experienced several challenging years of struggle and stagnation. Between leadership pressures and limited resources, discouragement had quietly begun to settle in.

The Lord led Pastor Chris to become the senior pastor about 18 months ago. We connected with him about seven months ago.

Through a connection with R3, a 45-minute video call became a discussion on a ministry assessment and review, leading to the co-development of a Ministry Action Plan. That included Refresh Funds for Pastor Chris and his wife, Matching Grant Funding, and a Pastor Advisory Team.

That team was a passionate and caring group of pastors who understood the unique challenges of ministry leadership.

What began as a simple conversation quickly became something more—encouragement, shared wisdom, lots of prayer, and a plan for the future.

Afterward, he shared something that captured the heart of R3:

"Sometimes you just need someone to remind you that you're not in this alone."

In the weeks that followed, he began implementing a few simple leadership adjustments along with some property enhancements and updates. Slowly, the congregation began to respond with renewed unity and energy. The community took notice as well, with a steady flow of visitors and regular attenders over the past few months.

Stories like this emphasize that strengthening pastors is one of the most strategic ways to strengthen churches. It also reminds us how much we love what we get to do.

## Leadership Insight for This Month

### Strengthening Volunteer Teams

Healthy churches are built on faithful volunteers who serve with joy and purpose.

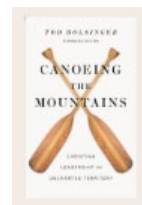
Three simple ways pastors can strengthen volunteer teams:

- **Clarify the Mission** – People serve best when they understand how their roles contribute to the church's larger mission.
- **Celebrate Faithfulness** – Small expressions of appreciation go a long way in encouraging volunteers who serve week after week.
- **Develop Emerging Leaders** – Identify individuals who show initiative and begin mentoring them toward greater responsibility.

When volunteers feel valued and equipped, the entire ministry of the church grows stronger.

[From Visitor to Vibrant Church Member - R3ministrynetwork](#)

## Book Resource Recommendation



### Canoeing the Mountains by Todd Bolsinger

Many pastors today find themselves leading in seasons of change where familiar strategies no longer produce the same results.

In *Canoeing the Mountains*, Todd Bolsinger explores what it means to lead faithfully when the path forward is unfamiliar.

The book offers helpful insights on adaptive leadership and how churches can remain faithful to their mission while navigating change.

For pastors facing complex leadership challenges, this book offers thoughtful encouragement and practical wisdom.

## Around the R3 Network

Here are a few things happening across the R3 Ministry Network.

- Pastors from several states have recently connected with R3 for leadership and equipping resources, inquiring about Pastor Advisory Teams and IRON Groups.
- New leadership resources are currently being developed to support pastors and churches.
- Planning is underway for leadership conversations webinars.
- Each month, more pastors and ministry partners are connecting with the R3 community.

## Strengthening Pastors Together

The mission of strengthening pastors and churches is something none of us can accomplish alone.

R3 Ministry Network exists because many people share the conviction that healthy pastoral leadership is essential to the strength of the church that leads to greater gospel impact in the community.

You can help strengthen pastors by:

- Praying for pastors and their families
- Sharing encouragement with ministry leaders
- Connecting pastors who may benefit from R3 resources

Together, we can help strengthen churches and expand gospel impact.

## Stand Firm

***“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”***

—1 Corinthians 15:58

Pastoral ministry matters deeply to God and to the communities where churches faithfully proclaim the gospel.

Thank you for serving Christ with faithfulness and perseverance.

Grace and peace,



*Greg Joyner*  
R3 Ministry Network

Psalm 34:3

Helping pastors lead better  
so churches grow stronger  
and the gospel shines brighter in every community.



If you are a pastor who would like a deeper discussion about R3 resources, we would be glad to connect.