

# PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT

The Bible affirms that the pastor should “Work hard so God can approve you. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15). We encourage all the pastors to develop a program of improving himself so that he will never be dry and without substance.

Many avenues are open to those who eagerly want to keep growing. The following list of opportunities is just a sample of the different ways in which the pastor can engage himself to the sort of development that will turn out to be very profitable in his ministry:

1. LifeWay Christian Resources offers a variety of plans of personal study that is intended to support the different aspects of church life. Courses can be taken individually or in groups.
2. ESL is a program designed to help those coming from other cultures that do not know English. These classes are offered in different settings such as: schools, churches, clubs, generally these classes are given at no cost to the learner. Each new comer should avail himself of one of the courses and improve himself and his ministry being able to reach a lot more people than being a monolingual.
3. GED is offered to those who have not finished high school program but that are eager to finish that part of their education. Universities and High Schools offer this program that is designed to put you at the university level in your education.
4. CLD is a contextualized leadership development. This is a plan of studies structured especially for pastors and church leaders searching for knowledge and abilities that will be useful in the ministry of the church. For some who would like to continue further studies it may offer some credits at the college or at the seminary level when other requirements are met.
5. Seminary Extension is a program designed to facilitate advanced studies for persons who cannot go to seminary or college, or for persons who simply like

to keep on growing in knowledge. Courses can be offered en groups or by correspondence for individual study.

6. Universities are for those who have completed the GED or who have a High School diploma. In some Christian colleges pastors o pastoral students may receive scholarships based on financial need. You can even find en any big city extensions of universities and seminary offering all kind selection that may fit your schedule.
7. Seminaries are for those university graduates who plan to continue in a postgraduate plan of studies. Several plans are offered. As Southern Baptists we have six seminaries supported by the Southern Baptist Convention. You may choose the one closer to you. They offer help for those adults that have neither t the chance nor the desire to go into a graduate program.
8. There will be opportunities to attend all kinds of seminars and workshops to keep current with what is going on in church life and development. Many good ideas will come to the pastor's ministry from these experiences.

The real truth about education is that it is there for anyone ready to put the effort and keep until the end. The pastor is called to be a student till the Lord calls him home.