

# PastorCare

## West Michigan

*Shepherding the Shepherds & Sheep*

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2023

## ASKING EXCAVATOR QUESTIONS



I invited one of the pastors I have been coaching, to share a little about his experience and the benefits he has received from my Confidential Coaching. As you read his story you will understand the genesis of the title of this Newsletter.



I am new to ministry. I have worked in construction all my life. Demolition, construction, remodeling, excavating, and things like that are where I am experienced. I have worked all over the US and have been blessed in that industry. About four years ago, leadership at my church approached me about entering into full-time vocational ministry. After my wife and I prayed about it (a lot) we discerned God was calling us into ministry. I transitioned into the executive pastor roll in February of 2021. The church leaders told me, "Ministry is different," "ministry is hard," or "don't burn out."

I jumped right in not really knowing what I was getting into but knowing God had called me to ministry. Soon after starting I saw some of the areas where it was different, or hard. I found myself needing some advice.

A friend suggested I look into getting a coach/counselor. I was able to connect with Pastor John Smith at Pastor Care. What a blessing. God knew what I needed.

I went to John's house the first time we met. I was carrying a lot that I needed to sort out with a wise, godly, coach. As we talked, he listened intently, in a way that showed me he really cares. We talked through some of the really difficult issues I was working through. His experience and wisdom are a huge blessing.

There was one particular issue I was struggling with. This was one of those things that push people from the church, a situation that can cause "church hurt". I shared it with Pastor John and he listened. He asked the right question to get to the heart of the issue. I just finished the devotional "Why Pray" by John Devries. In the second to last devotional in the book, he said, "Seed needs to be planted in holes. Questions are the shovels that open a person's spirit to receive the Word of God."

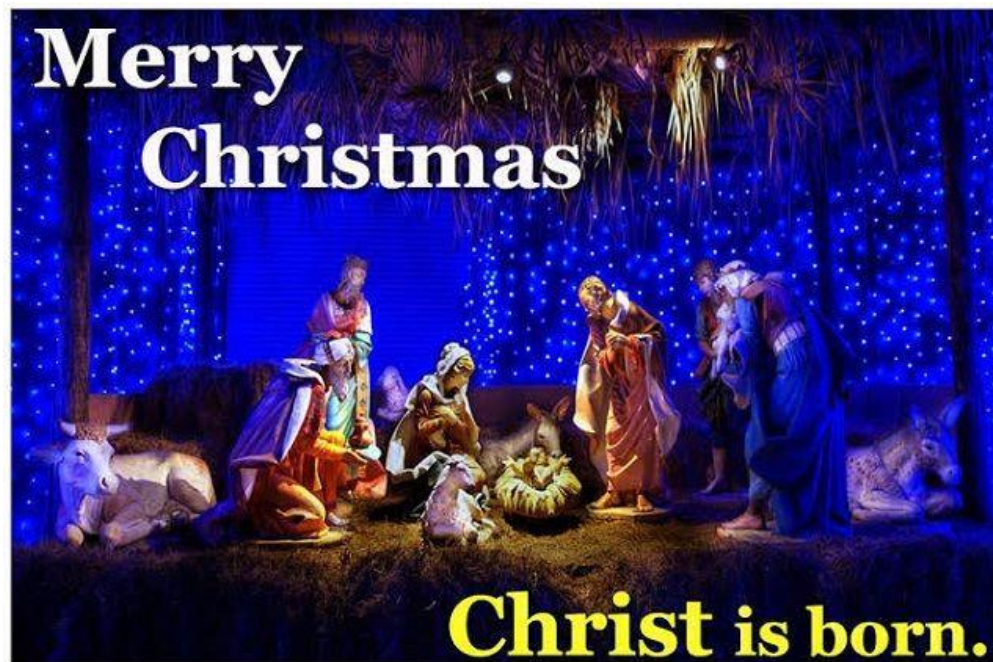
I have experienced those types of questions and conversations with Pastor John. There are also times in our lives when we need to be challenged in a loving way. The issue I was struggling with called for someone to take the first step in reconciliation. It was hard after being hurt so badly but when John

looked at me, smiled and said, “you know what you need to do”. I knew in my heart that I needed to forgive without expecting an apology.

I also had become so immersed in my new vocation that I was failing at home. I knew the right answers and even encouraged couples to spend time together. I had allowed almost every evening of the week to be scheduled at the church doing really great things. This comes at a price though. Pastor John encouraged me to practice what I preach and take my wife out on dates as well as spend time with my two teenage children. He lovingly let me know that no one else can be my wife’s husband or my kid’s dad. His counsel was timely and saved me from possible heartache at home.

Ministry can be messy and hard. No matter how long you have been in ministry, there are areas we all need to grow and heal. Maybe the difficulty of leadership is too heavy to carry, or you have been feeling like you are on the verge of burnout, reach out. If you have been hurt by someone deeply and just don’t know how to process it, reach out. If you are a shepherd needing some counsel or coaching, Pastor John Smith is a godly, discerning, brother in Christ who can help you walk through the trials of ministry and life. He has deeply impacted me and my leadership. He would love to do the same for you. He is a shepherd for the shepherds.

In Christ,  
Matt Stitt, Executive Pastor, Inspire Church



**Our ministry is funded through donations and empowered through prayer. Thank you for remembering us!**

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**Sue Smith, Chief Discernment Officer**

**Contact John: [jsmith@pastorcarewm.org](mailto:jsmith@pastorcarewm.org) Cell: 616-304-8543 [www.pastorcarewm.org](http://www.pastorcarewm.org)**