*In light of the great news concerning Pastor Guter accepting the call to serve at Faith Church, I decided to not present the number four message in the worldview series, this Sunday. Instead I prepared a message in keeping with this wonderful news.*

*Since I didn’t prepare a PowerPoint to go with today’s message, I’ll include the Scripture passages in this handout.*

*After, as in “after church”—stay focused folk—I’ll share a personal word.*

**How to Make Life Easier for Your New Pastor, and Reap Fringe Benefits as Well.**

Hebrews 13:7 & 17
7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.
17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you. (NIV 84)

**I encourage you to make the past a foundation to build on, not a rut to get stuck in.**

**I encourage you to adopt key attitudes, right now, that will enable a successful future.** *As a bonus we’ll take a tour of the ways churches “call” a pastor.*

Proverbs 3:5–6 (NIV)
Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6 in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Romans 12:1–2 (NIV)
Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

1 Peter 5:3 (NIV)
. . . not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

**I encourage you to be aware of the burden that a pastor carries.**

Ezekiel 33:1–7 (NIV)

1 The word of the Lord came to me: 2 “Son of man, speak to your people and say to them: ‘When I bring the sword against a land, and the people of the land choose one of their men and make him their watchman, 3 and he sees the sword coming against the land and blows the trumpet to warn the people, 4 then if anyone hears the trumpet but does not heed the warning and the sword comes and takes their life, their blood will be on their own head. 5 Since they heard the sound of the trumpet but did not heed the warning, their blood will be on their own head. If they had heeded the warning, they would have saved themselves. 6 But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people and the sword comes and takes someone’s life, that person’s life will be taken because of their sin, but I will hold the watchman accountable for their blood.’ 7 “Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me.

2 Corinthians 11:28–29 (NIV)
28 Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. 29 Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?

**I encourage you to remember that following these instructions will bring joy to your pastor, and it’s good for you.**

Dear Faith Family,

Thanks for the privilege of sharing with you today.

We rejoice with all of you in the knowledge that Pastor Guter has accepted the call to serve at Faith Church. We commend all concerned for a job well done and pray for a smooth transition.

Kathy and I are well. I write this from our younger son’s living room in College Station Texas. We are here to attend our grandson, Silas’s high school graduation. We are enjoying these opportunities to spend more time with family. We are busy in many ways. Of note in this regard is our new ministry of pastoring the missionaries who serve with Liebenzell USA. I have been named Missionary Care Associate. We’ll work out of our home. It will involve some travel.

About the message that I didn’t do this morning:

I’ll be sharing that message at Covington Bible Church in a few weeks. I’ll send you the link to the online recording.

If you are in our area, please stop in. We try to maintain an open house.

By His Grace,

H&K