



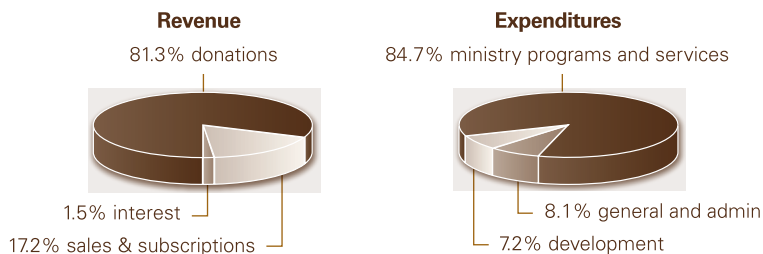
Because of you . . .

To all our donors, volunteers, advocates and ministry partners – thank you for supporting Focus on the Family Canada.

We can make a difference in Canadian families only because of friends like you.

We Are Stewards

Our programs and services are supported entirely by our donors in Canada. We are committed to keeping our donors informed of our progress and are members of the Canadian Council of Christian Charities (CCCC). We are stewards of all the resources God entrusts to us and we are accountable to our ministry partners, and to God, for how we use all that we receive.



Paying it forward

Did you know that when you support a pastor, you are effectively supporting their congregation, too? Encouraging pastors in their ministry positively impacts the communities and congregations they serve. It's an act of kindness that multiplies!

How is my gift making a difference?

Your gifts are:

- Providing clergy and their family members direct, toll-free access to our counselling network.
- Making seats available at our Pastors' Gatherings – half-day mini retreats to cheer pastors on in their ministry.
- Sending pastors and their spouses to our Pastoral Couples' Marriage Retreats, where they can "recharge their batteries" – not only in their personal lives, but in their work for the Lord, too.
- Providing pastors and clergy with our monthly e-newsletter, *Signpost*, which is chock-full of great tips and encouraging advice.

Focus on the Family Canada
Stewardship Update

The reality of church leadership p.3
 How Clergy Care partners with your denomination p.3
 Paying it forward and what your gifts are doing p.4
 The *Stewardship Update* – tell us what you think! p.4

Investing in families across Canada • Summer 2007

What does your pastor's morning look like?

Pastors find Gatherings beneficial for their ministry and for the people they serve

At half past seven on a chilly winter morning, pastors laid aside their sermon writing, picked up their Bibles, grabbed their spouse's hand and headed out the door.



PASTORS GEAR UP FOR AN EXCITING MORNING AT THE EDMONTON EVENT

Half an hour later, they were seated, chatting over fresh cups of steaming coffee and an array of delicious pastries and goodies. What were they doing, you ask? Why, they were at a Pastors' Gathering, of course!

Your donations help to organize these free

half-day mini-retreats which allow pastors and their spouses a time to relax, receive encouragement and connect with other couples in the ministry.

The recent run of Pastors' Gatherings took place in 10 cities – from Ottawa, Ontario, all the way to Kelowna, B.C. Pastors and their spouses had the opportunity to receive encouragement in their ministry from special guest speakers Dr. Tim Kimmel and Pastor Bob Dobson, along with the team from Focus on the Family Canada.

The hundreds of pastoral couples that attended also received a sizable selection of books, CDs and resources from Focus on the Family Canada to strengthen their family and their ministry.

Unpacking the myth of the "superhuman" pastor

Clergy Care director Geof Cornelsen comments on the struggles pastors face

For a long time, many Christians in North America have assumed that because pastors are called by God into ministry, they are somehow "superhuman."

This is an assumption that not only congregants have bought into, but many pastors have, too. It's an assumption that's taking its toll on the Church.

Almost one in two pastors have had to take a leave of absence from their ministry because of depression or burnout.

We see pastors regularly over-committing themselves, stressed out and

under spiritual pressure. Their struggles are very much like what you and I go through.

That's why Clergy Care exists. With your support, we are able to address the real and unique needs of clergy and their families.

Because of you, clergy all across the country can receive encouragement and relevant resources through our Clergy Care program.

On behalf of pastors and their families – thank you!

Let your pastor go!

Pastors and their spouses take time off to recharge and reconnect at the Pastoral Couples' Marriage Retreat in scenic Lake Louise

Taking your pastor out of church can be a good thing.

On November 28, 2006, pastors and their spouses from across Alberta and British Columbia flocked to Lake Louise for a three-day Pastoral Couples' Marriage Retreat.

A part of Focus on the Family Canada's Clergy Care program, these retreats allow pastors and their spouses exclusive time together to recharge and to be inspired by special guest speakers.



PASTORS AND THEIR SPOUSES ENJOY A GOOD LAUGH OVER DINNER.

instrumental in helping me regain my focus. My wife and I needed this, and although issues and crises still exist, now we know there are tools for us to use in ministry to help [us] persevere."

Our Pastoral Couples' Marriage Retreats are held several times a year at different locations throughout the country. Watch the Clergy Care website, ClergyCare.ca, for more information about upcoming retreat dates and venues.

"How can I encourage my pastor?"

It's as easy as directing your pastoral staff to our Clergy Care website, ClergyCare.ca, where they'll find practical, relevant resources for their families, ministries and personal lives.

Or, talk to your church board about signing them up for one of our Pastoral Couples' Marriage Retreats!

The reality of church leadership

- It's more than a full-time job! Almost eight out of 10 Canadian pastors work over 40 hours per week, some pastors averaging over 60 hours a week!
- The typical pastor has his greatest ministry impact at a church in years five through 14 of his pastorate. Unfortunately, the average pastor lasts only five years at a church.
- The greatest challenge reported by Canadian pastors and their wives is taking care of themselves emotionally and spiritually.
- More than eight in 10 pastors and their spouses are discouraged or dealing with depression.
- 80 per cent of pastors say they have insufficient time with their spouses.

Bridging the gap

Partnering with denominations to meet the needs of pastors and their families

There are currently representatives from 14 denominations that work with the Clergy Care program to provide valuable input, helping to increase the effectiveness of the program. They also help to connect their clergy members to the program.

Steve Berg, a conference minister from the British Columbia Mennonite Brethren Conference of Churches, echoes the sentiments of many denominations in Canada: "Every church wants their pastor to be healthy and effective in their ministry. The health of our pastors and their families is a high priority to us. We're committed to them. That's why we partner with Clergy Care."

Working towards a brighter future

Clergy Care initiatives establishing a safe place for clergy all across the country

"There's no one to help." "No one understands."

Those are the reasons pastors cite most often when asked why they left the ministry. The Clergy Care program seeks to fill this need through programs and services centred on strengthening pastors' marriages and families across Canada.

The program realizes that positively impacting the personal and spiritual lives of pastors and their families will, in turn, positively impact their respective congregations and the community at large.

Reaching out to pastors also helps to raise awareness in Canadian churches regarding the unique needs and stresses associated with ministry.

In addition, the partnerships that the Clergy Care program has with a significant number of denominations across Canada all work toward the common goal of health and support for our nation's pastors.



What pastors and their families are saying about the Clergy Care program

"You have a fantastic toll-free number for us to call when we are down or need an objective sounding board. I don't know where you get your people on the other end of the phone-line to listen so well and offer encouragement, but God bless them - they are a life-line to many of us in the family of clergy."

The November retreat elicited a tremendous response from clergy all over the country. All of the 166 spaces were filled within the first two weeks, with an additional 100 couples on the waiting list!

The beautiful, tranquil landscape set the tone for the rest of the event as pastors and their spouses took advantage of the retreat's relaxed schedule to reconnect with each other.

Encouraging and inspiring the couples even further were speakers H.B. London, vice-president of pastoral

ministries at Focus on the Family, Colorado; marriage and family specialists Paddy and Carole Ducklow; and motivational speaker Glen Heinrichs.

Pastors and their spouses left Lake Louise feeling renewed as a couple and better equipped in their ministry.

One pastor from Alberta captured the sentiments of the attendees in his comment: "I found this [event] to be extremely encouraging, as well as