

Bro. Vic,

As I stand here before you, I am reminded of something. We honored you with a big bash for your twentieth anniversary as our pastor ten years ago. Upon researching that information to get ready for this one, I found that one of the stipulations of that bash was that we wouldn't do another one like it for another twenty years. So it looks to me like you still owe us ten years! I guess that means we can all go home now and wait until November 2020 to do what we planned to do for today....Just kidding!

We, at Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church, feel very fortunate and honored to have had you to serve as our pastor for the last thirty years. We are blessed to have a pastor who loves God, serves God to the best of his capacity and knowledge, and loves us enough to pass along this life-saving information. Your message every Sunday is God-given and it has been an inspiration to some to profess their faith in Jesus Christ and it has led others to be revived in the Spirit.

You have been with us in good times and bad, through many life-events such as weddings, births, baptisms, and deaths.

According to the statistics that have been gathered, you have performed close to 300 weddings. As you saw earlier, many of those couples are with us today. Some have passed important milestones in their marriages such as five, ten, twenty, and almost thirty year anniversaries.

You've been there to rejoice with us in the birth of our children and have watched many of them grow into young adults. Some of them now have children of their own. I don't know how many have been born since you came. The first one, Terry Cox, will be thirty years old in January. That seems so amazing, especially to his parents, but it's true.

You have served many generations since 1980. We think of you as family and when a member of the family dies, you weep with us as you, too, are saddened by the loss. We appreciate your compassion and love and it provides much comfort to us as we work through our grief.

According to the Associational Office, Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church has performed 190 baptisms since 1980. That is the most meaningful of all statistical information. Your main focus has been to spread the news of Jesus Christ and to make sure every person understands John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." These 190 Professions of Faith and baptisms have the assurance that they will have this eternal life with Jesus Christ.

You are recognized as a community pastor as well as the pastor of Muldraugh Hill. You have performed many weddings and funerals for non-members and helped them through many of their life-events just like ours. This means a lot to those people and you have been a tremendous witness to them, showing the love of Jesus Christ through this outreach to the community. Because of this compassion and love, you have gained the love and respect of everyone that knows you in the surrounding community and region.

You have tirelessly made your daily visits to the local hospitals and traveled to the larger hospitals when necessary. The patients and families that you visited on those occasions will never forget your presence or your compassionate hug when health issues were their biggest concern. Hearing you pray for them as you held their hand provided much comfort to them and their families.

We appreciate your kindness, thoughtfulness, compassion, morality, strength, and wisdom. The describing list could go on and on. We are honoring you today out of love and wish the best for you. We hope you continue to serve here with us for a long, long time. We know you will do whatever is God's will, as you always have. One of these days His direction for you will be elsewhere. We just hope that day is in the very distant future.

While helping to plan this event, I came upon a poem that says it all. The author is unknown and is as follows:

#### TO OUR PASTOR

Our God has sent you to this place  
To lead us in the way  
That He would have us work and think  
And live from day to day.

No matter the hour; whatever the need,  
You go the extra mile -  
Always ready and willing to share  
A comforting thought and a smile.

We're grateful that you're here with us  
To teach us from His word,  
And we will try to do our best  
In service of our Lord.

We thank you for your ministry,  
Your guidance and your care.  
His greatest blessings for your life  
Is our most humble prayer.

Author Unknown

We love you Bro. Vic!