

October 29, 1958

Pastors' Salaries
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NASHVILLE--(BP)--It is time the churches did something about the poorly paid ministers of America. This is the frank opinion of a group of laymen in Minneapolis, Minn. who conducted a survey for Ministers Life and Casualty Union. They found that two-thirds of the more than 200,000 in this country are in debt.

"On an average 1958 income of \$4,432, the minister must carry out not only the responsibilities of husband and father but must also cover inadequate allowances provided by the church for fulfilling and improving his professional function," their report said.

"In the face of inflated dollar values, comparatively slow-rising salaries of ministers have less buying power now than they did in 1939 at half their present size. As the number of salary-dollars rose, they were swallowed by a corresponding increase in the prices of household and personal necessities. And the remainder is eaten away by new expenses created by modern society, such as a growing number of charities demanding contributions and new appliances becoming standard items in the home.

"A 60 to 80-hour week is standard for ministers despite the fact that a set salary decreases in value-per-hour as the hours increase. This compares unfavorably with the working man's status, where after 40 hours a week his hourly rate increases t time-and-a-half and even double-time. In the same number of hours, in many cases it is possible for the workman to triple his minister's salary.

"As a trained professional man and respected community leader, the minister has a reasonable amount of status to maintain, regardless of cost. As the head of his family, he must provide his wife and children with the necessities of life. As a human being, he must struggle to provide himself and his family with the creature comforts resulting from books, recreation, education and savings. It is impossible for a minister to meet all today's financial demands on a salary with 1939 buying power. Two-thirds of the country's ministers have proven this by going in debt.

"The problem is serious. It costs just as much for a minister to send his children to college or to run his car as it does for anyone else.

"The solution lies in the hands of the church directors and members--in their consideration and decision on how much they can give for all they receive."