



Scottish Baptist Lay Preachers' Association



LAY PREACHERS' - PERSONAL REVIEW WORKBOOK

Introduction:

This workbook started life as a tool for Scottish Baptist Ministers. Some of the material in it was felt to be useful for Lay Preachers also, and so the Scottish Baptist Lay Preachers' Association sought permission for use of a considerably adapted version.

This version draws on some of the original material, but has been condensed, re-shaped and re-focussed to make it more relevant for lay preachers. It is our hope that by following the guidelines given below, lay preachers will have opportunity to engage in some meaningful reflection on preaching and the lifestyle that sustains and enriches a preaching ministry.

The focus throughout is on the person who is working through the review, with the hope that by working with a companion (another lay preacher or a pastor) good relationships will be forged that will continue beyond the review period.

You can either write in the workbook itself, or complete the electronic version. As you complete this, and share with a companion and friend who will accompany you through this review, we invite you to:

- **Reflect** on your preaching ministry
- **Think about** your relationship with God
- **Look** at your own life, family and friends.
- **Consider** how you can continue to develop.

What is offered here is a tool, for you and your companion to use together, something that will facilitate a meaningful and sustained conversation.

Schedule:

The following is offered as a basic schedule:

Preparation: Contact the SBLPA Secretary, who will help you to find another lay preacher or a pastor to serve as your companion through the review.

Session 1: Meet with this person to talk over the process, fix dates for meeting and look at the workbook.

Between sessions 1 and 2, send a copy of the completed workbook to her/him.

Sessions 2-3 (1-2 months later): Meet together over one to two sessions, after you have completed the workbook. These are focal points in the process. Plenty of time should be set aside to take stock of what you have shared, and to allow your companion opportunity to affirm, encourage, probe, and challenge as appropriate.

Session 4 (6 months later): Meet together once more to reflect back on the process and review progress made since the Review.

We would recommend that reviews like this could usefully take place every 3-4 years.

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SECTION 1: PREACHING

As a lay preacher you are regularly entrusted with ministry to different congregations within the Baptist Union of Scotland and other churches. The following questions and activities invite you to reflect on all that is involved in serving by leading and preaching.

1:1 Read the words opposite - well known advice from Paul to Timothy. In the light of this, how do you go about preparing a sermon?

***“Focus on reading the scriptures to the church, encouraging the believers, and teaching them”
— 1 Timothy 4:13***

***“Be a good workman who correctly handles the word of truth”
— 2 Timothy 2:15***

If you are also asked to lead a service, how do you prepare for that?

What do you think is a suitable length of sermon? How long do you normally preach?

What is your preferred preaching style? What other styles have you used, and why?

What are the advantages and drawbacks of using modern technology in delivering your sermons?

“Preachers often struggle more with application than with proclamation”. What has been your experience?

All preachers want to be led by the Holy Spirit. How does He lead you?
What has given you greatest satisfaction in preaching?

1:2 Share one example of how God has spoken to you recently through the scriptures. How did you work that through?

1:3 Tick (by striking the ‘a’ key on keyboard) the statements below that reflect where you are right now...

<i>I always make time for personal Bible study apart from preparation time</i>	
<i>I struggle to find time for personal Bible study</i>	
<i>I love the work involved in preparing to preach</i>	
<i>Preparation for me is 90% perspiration and 10% inspiration</i>	
<i>I usually preach in an expository way</i>	
<i>I prefer to use a thematic approach in preaching</i>	
<i>I always use the same style</i>	
<i>I adapt to different styles, depending on the context</i>	
<i>I welcome feedback and suggestions from congregations</i>	
<i>I use sermon material prepared by others</i>	
<i>I normally try to prepare fresh material</i>	

1:4 How have you responded to those who disagreed with your approach or interpretation of a particular passage?

1:5 How do you choose your sermon themes, and what would you love to preach on in the coming year?

1:6 Complete this sentence: "What I enjoy most about being a Lay Preacher is...."

1:7 How do people see you? Circle below the words that you think a congregation would use to describe you...

<i>Innovative</i>	<i>Persuasive</i>	<i>Servant-hearted</i>	<i>Inspiring</i>
<i>Consensual</i>	<i>Timid</i>	<i>Flexible</i>	<i>Open</i>
<i>Forceful</i>	<i>Gentle Meek</i>	<i>Calm</i>	

What important words may be missing?

1:8 What are you doing to develop as a lay preacher, and to address areas where you are weak?

SECTION 2: YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Appropriately for lay preachers, we started with preaching. Fruitfulness for God however depends upon relationship with Him. Now you have an opportunity to think about your present relationship, and how that can grow.

2:1 See the quote opposite. As you “walk” with Jesus, how have you been blessed or encouraged recently?

“Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did” – 1 John 2:6

How do you cultivate your relationship with God?

2:2 Circle the words below that describe your present relationship with Him:

Exciting

Growing

Erratic

Fulfilling

Engrossing

Stale

Committed

Wonderful

Lukewarm

Living

Lifeless

Challenging

What other words would you use?

2:3 With whom do you share devotionally?

2:4 Who do you turn to for advice, guidance, or direction?

2:5 What personal changes have you noticed in your own life over the last few years, and how has that affected your relationship with Jesus?

SECTION 3: RENEWING YOUR MIND

3:1 In Romans 12:2, Paul speaks about having our minds renewed. What helps to renew your mind?

3:2 List below some of the books you have read in the last few years:

Which were most helpful? Why?

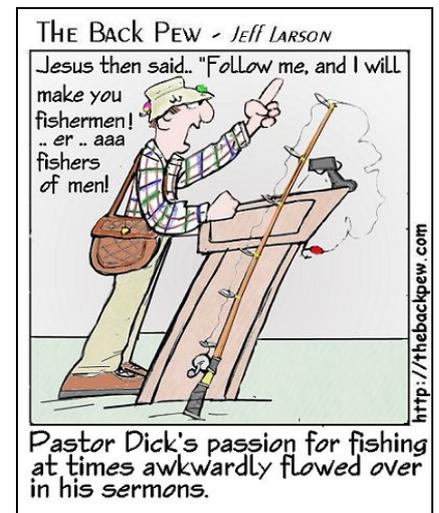
3:4 Reading and reflection are two ways in which our minds can be renewed, our practice altered, and our lives changed. What other ways have you found or used, or would like to explore?

3:5 How do you feed your mind, and what can act against the renewing of your mind?

3:6 If you could go to College for a few modules, what would you do? (If you want some ideas of what's available, have a look at the Scottish Baptist College website).

SECTION 4: YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

4:1 See Pastor Dick— opposite. How do you relax, and how much time do you spend pursuing hobbies?



4:2 If you are married, circle the words below that best describe your relationship with your spouse; if you are single, consider your relationship with your closest friends...

Loving Fulfilling Satisfying Vital

Supportive Cool Absorbing Relaxed

Friendly Pressurised Distant Warm

How would you like to see these relationships developing?

4:3 If you have children, what are their main interests? What do you most enjoy doing with them?

4:4 *“People often talk about putting God first, family second, and church third. This is too simplistic. There are times when family or church must take priority. God understands this and endorses it.”*

What do you think about this comment from a church elder?

4:5 What stressful situations (if any) are you currently facing in your family life or with your close friends?

4:6 Write the names of four good friends below:

i. _____

iii. _____

ii. _____

What activities do you share with them?

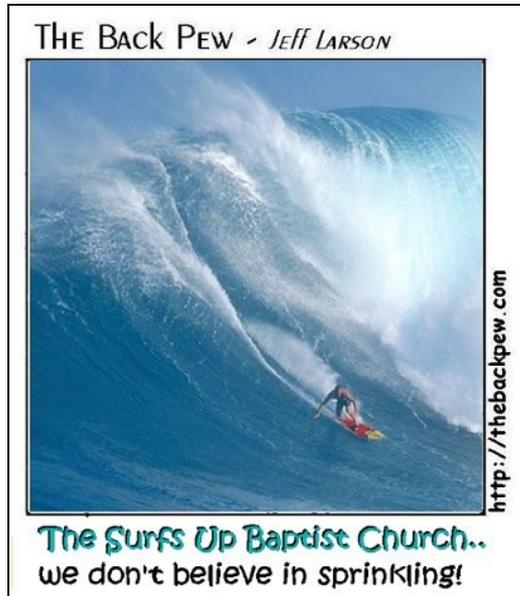
If they are all Christians, how many non-Christian friends do you have – and does it matter?

4:7 Ask your spouse (if you are married) and one other good friend (two good friends if you are unmarried) to comment on what you have written in this review, then summarise their responses below...

4:8 With whom do you hold yourself accountable?

SECTION 5: MOVING ON FROM HERE

This review offers a chance to stop, reflect, pray, and then look forward. What happens now is the most important part of it!



5:1 Imagine this is a picture of ministry and you are the guy on the surf-board. What are you thinking?

5:2 Take time to look back over what you have written in this personal review. What, if anything, have you sensed God saying to you as you have worked through this?

Note any questions or issues you would like to discuss with your companion when you meet together.

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