

# Long Term Ministry and It's impact.

*Ex. 7:1-7, Deu.34:1-12*

***“Every Pastor serves as an Interim. Some are longer than others but none are forever.”***



Thom Rainer “In one of our national surveys of pastors, we found the average pastoral tenure to be 3.6 years. But in different studies of effective leaders, those pastors had an average tenure ranging from 11.2 to 21.6 years”. –

**In 172 years, New Zion has had 47 pastors.**

26 have stayed 2 years or less.

4 have stayed 10 or more years.

- Bro. W.B. Gallman 1858 ( 10 years)
- Bro. Sproles 1927 ( 10 years)
- Bro. C. O. Lindsey 1964 (16 years )
- Bro Webb Armstrong 2007-present. ( 12 +)



# Benefits & Negatives of a Long-Term Pastorate. By Ron Pracht

## **Benefits of a Long-Term Pastorate**

- You get to know your people more intimately.
- There is stability in the church family.
- Your family has a sense of being rooted.
- Trust grows stronger every year you stay.
- Developing reproducing disciples becomes easier.
- You get to watch generations invest in the kingdom.
- You learn to stand and fight rather than give up and run.
- You learn to be open and confessional, personally and in your preaching.
- You learn the importance of relationships and keeping them right before God.
- You earn the right to lead significant change.
- There is a depth of relationship with people.
- You truly learn to love people as you walk with them in good and bad times.
- You stand in a long tradition of men who have invested their lives in one place.
- Your influence can become stronger because you are known by other pastors as a faithful man.
- You are forced to grow in preaching and leadership.
- You get to see the fruit of your ministry both locally and internationally.



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## Disadvantages of a Long-Term Pastorate

- A pastor can become comfortable in his role, and passion can diminish.
- The pastor's family does not learn to be stretched by moving.
- A sense of personal ownership of the church can creep in.
- The pastor does not have to learn to deal with new situations and problems.
- People who fail do not get a “do-over”
- You don't get a “do-over”
- Your resume is much shorter!
- When a long-time friend or supporter decides to leave the church, the pain is deeper for a long-tenured pastor than it is for the man who moves frequently.

# Six Reasons Pastoral Tenure Maybe Increasing.

MARCH 15, 2017 THOM RAINER



- **Baby boomer pastors are delaying retirement.**
- **Moving to larger churches is no longer considered a career path by many pastors.**
- **More pastors feel called to a community as well as a church.**
- **Financial insecurities impact the mobility of some pastors.**
- **Many pastors are less likely to move for family reasons.**
- **More pastors understand the benefit of staying at one place longer.**

*Moses. Exo 7:1-7*

*A long term minister with an amazing task.*



**Vr. 2 “Speak all that I command you.”**

***Declare my message of truth.***

**Vr. 4 “My great Judgments.”**

***Display My righteous Judgments.***

**Vr. 5 “Bring them out.”**

***Deliver My People from bondage.***



# 40 years later !!!! *Deu 34:1-12*

## ***God did not allow...***

- His servant to finish the task.
- His servant to be exalted above Him.
- His servant to lack vision or strength.

## ***God's people's response.***

- They grieved their loss for a time, then moved on.
- They recognized God's new Leader.
- They never forgot their former leaders' faith.