

How are decisions being made? Is there proper communication between the leader and team? Is the team functioning properly? Is there an on-going developing vision? These are a few of the areas we would desire to cover with the team.

An equation for a healthy church or ministry

As giving spiritual oversight, we are not involved in the day-to-day ministry unless we are requested to provide this type of input. Our focus is to help ministry succeed and be aware of things that cause ministry to fail. One of the equations we use is: **Healthy individuals make healthy leaders, which in turn build healthy teams. Healthy teams produce healthy churches and ministries.** All are necessary to build healthy churches or ministries that stand the test of time and withstand the warfare from the enemy. The true heart of any spiritual ministry should be to see the local church or ministry become a success and fulfill the vision God has given them.

Spiritual Oversight is one of the invitations. If an Individual(s), church or ministry requests engagement or partnership with the Apostle, Prophet or FBMW, they are requesting spiritual oversight. That process is our "invitation."

Spiritually, we lay down our lives to serve the individual(s), church or ministry to see them become all that the Lord intends them to be.

Drs. Eddie A. & Cassandra A. Montgomery
FBMW

1 Thessalonians 5:11-13

"Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.¹² And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you,¹³ and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.

Family Bible Ministries Worldwide, Inc.

5300 Edmondson Ave.

Baltimore, MD 21229

Phone: 410-455-0678

Fax: 410-455-9221

Email: fbmw1@verizon.net

Website: www.familybibleministries.org

Apostle Bishop
Eddie A. Montgomery, Ph.D.

Prophet Bishop
Cassandra A. Montgomery, Ph.D.

Dedicated
Spiritual
Oversight

Family Bible Ministries Worldwide, Inc.

Phone: 410-455-0678

How Drs. Montgomery and FBMW provide spiritual oversight

Spiritual oversight is about relationship. It involves looking out for the best interests of another while providing spiritual protection. Think of a shoot-out in a western movie. Someone shouts, "cover me," and runs out into the line of fire. Protecting that person involves looking out for them, protecting their back if needed, and engaging the enemy while the "covered" is free to go and do what they need to do. That's what spiritual oversight is all about!

What Spiritual Oversight is Not

Spiritual oversight may mean different things to different people. Some, because of the "Shepherding Movement" of the past, think of control. Others, because of a denominational understanding, think of spiritual oversight from an organizational viewpoint only and overlook its additional relational aspect. Spiritual oversight to others is a formal term on paper but has little meaning in a practical sense. Still others may think of spiritual oversight as providing help only if a major problem arises.

What Drs. Montgomery and FBMW offer: 5 Fold Ministry Care and 1 Corinthians 12:28b

When we provide spiritual oversight for an individual(s), church or ministry, we look out for their well-being. We pray for the leadership and work with them to help solve difficult problems and walk through troubled situations. We defend them when necessary. We strive to protect the vision of the senior leader and the purpose for which the church or ministry was created.

We provide an "outside court of appeal" for people within the church or ministry if there is a situation that the leadership team is unable to work through. Often someone with relationship from the "outside" is able to bring clearer perspective and be more objective than those who are in the center of the situation. We will travel on-site to provide problem-solving and relationship-restoration input, attempting to look at the situation from the perspective of helping the team fulfill their God-giving vision and plan.

Accountability

When an individual(s), church or ministry chooses to come under the spiritual oversight of Drs. Montgomery and FBMW, the leaders are asking for accountability. The leader and the team are requesting that we, as providing spiritual oversight, speak into their lives and their ministry. Oversight must be established and built by relationship. While most accountability for a church or ministry is between the elders or board and the senior leader, the spiritual oversight given provides a level of accountability for the senior leader.

The spiritual oversight's primary communication and relationship is with the senior leader. However, he or she also maintains relationships with the elders and/or board members of the ministry. In case a problem arises that cannot be solved as a team, the elders or ministry board members have the freedom and relationship to go to the oversight as an outside court of appeal. The spiritual oversight is to serve the senior leader and team, etc. The heart and goal is to serve in such a way that the leader and others are successful in what the Lord has called them to do.

What does it mean practically?

- We pray regularly for the senior leader, team and ministry.
- We meet with the senior leader as needed.
- When an individual(s), church or ministry is outside our immediate area, we meet with the individual(s), leader and church as necessary. We maintain contact via phone, etc. or e-mail every 2-4 weeks.
- We ask questions related to the leader's personal life as well as how the team is functioning along with the ministry.
- We ask about the senior leader's personal walk with the Lord.
- We ask about the senior leader's marriage and family.
- We monitor the functioning of the team.
- We inquire about staff and staff relationships.
- We help with ministry functions.
- We help develop goals from growth and expansion.
- We provide encouragement in what the Lord has been speaking to the team.
- We evaluate current functions & objectives.
- We encourage financial accountability.
- We encourage and assist in training, developing and releasing young leaders.
- We meet with the team as necessary, checking how the team is functioning and relating to the senior leader and his or her leadership style. Our desire is to see the team functioning properly within the framework of Watchful Care . How is the leader relating to the team?