



# Book budget development resources...

Suggested book budget for a church with 501-750 members: **\$175-230 per month**

The Pastor's Library surveyed over 1800 pastors and church members about pastor's book budgets. It is important to remember that if your church has more than one pastor, the book budget should reflect an allotment for each pastor to read somewhere between 4 to 6 books a month. With larger congregations, pastor need access to more diverse resources and a wider variety of reading material

## Fast facts about pastoral book budgets:

**46%** of surveyed pastors with a book budget have not seen their budget for purchasing print and electronic resources increase in the last 5 years.

**32%** of surveyed pastors with a book budget have never seen their book budget increase.

**61%** surveyed pastors with a book budget say that the books they typically buy are more expensive now than when they started as a pastor.

**89%** of surveyed pastors use somewhere between 0-10 books in a typical week to prepare for sermons and conduct personal study. Many of these pastors said they would use more books for their studies, but they could not afford more.

**47%** of surveyed pastors who do not have a book budget must spend out of their own pocket to purchase books for their pastoral library.

## Important reasons to develop your pastor's book budget:

### HIGHER COSTS

Many pastoral book budgets have remained stagnant over the last 5 years, even as the cost of needed resources has seen a noticeable increase in price. Often, pastors find they cannot purchase the books all of the books they need with their existing budgets.

### MOVEMENT TOWARD BIBLE SOFTWARE

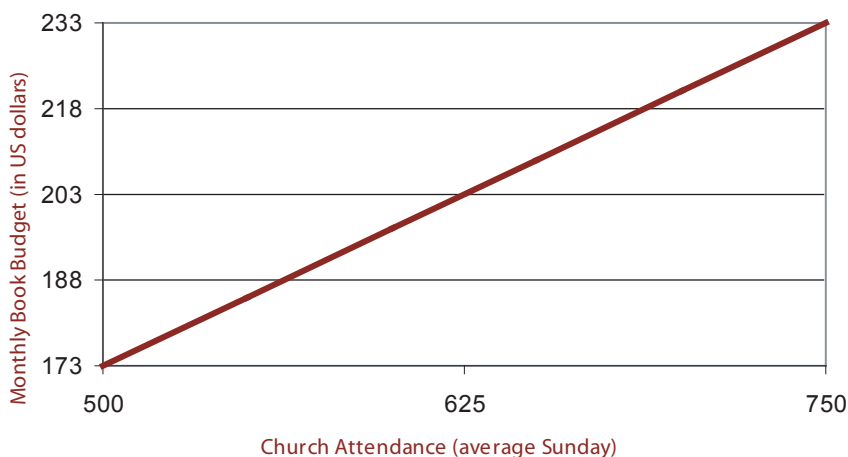
Over half of pastors with book budgets project they will spend 40% or more of their book budgets on software or electronic books in the next two years. Purchasing Bible software may seem intimidating at first because of cost, but by developing a book budget, pastors and churches can invest with confidence in a tool that will save time and provide immense benefits for pastoral studies.

### GROWING CHURCHES

Pastors of growing churches often face increased demands on their time and important new responsibilities. Churches should provide the means for pastors to succeed; this includes an adequate, appropriate pastoral book budget.

## More facts and tips for developing your pastor's book budget:

### Church Attendance of 501-750



### Book budget tips from the experts:

- Reevaluating and expanding your book budget can help your church focus its spending on what's important
- It is important to evaluate the many tools available to pastors and churches today. Churches that spend their book budget wisely reap the benefits of resources that continue to be useful as their congregation changes and develops.
- As your church grows, it may become more appropriate to invest in resources for the pastor's library that cover a wide range of topics. One example is Bible software.
- When pastors have adequate book budgets, churches are better equipped to grow as they study the Bible. Expanding the pastor's budget may be an easy way to your pastor's Bible studies and will benefit the whole congregation.

For more budgeting tools, visit [www.ThePastorsLibrary.com](http://www.ThePastorsLibrary.com)!