



NOB Regional EMPOWERMENT

VISITS

2026



FUELLING THE FIRE

For lack of wood the fire goes out.
Proverbs 26:20a (ESV)

The Ministry of Presence & Leadership

Leading by Being Fully There

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PRESENCE IS NOT PASSIVE

Leadership is often measured by activity, output, and visibility, but **pastoral leadership** is also measured by availability and attentiveness.

The ministry of presence is not about doing more, but about **being fully present** with God, people, and purpose.



PRESENCE IS NOT PASSIVE

Jesus did not only lead through sermons and miracles, but through proximity.

NB: People are shaped more by our presence with them than by what we say.



Scripture
anchor:
Matthew 1:23 –
“Immanuel...
God with us.”



GOD LEADS THROUGH PRESENCE

God's presence precedes His power:

- Exodus 33:14-15 - "My presence will go with you..."
- Joshua 1:5 - "I will be with you."



GOD LEADS THROUGH PRESENCE

Jesus' leadership model:

- Mark 3:14 He appointed the Twelve “that they might be with Him” before sending them.
- Luke 24:15 Jesus walked with the disciples before revealing truth.
- Presence creates trust, safety, and openness for transformation.

**Authority flows from presence
before position.**





THE TENSION LEADERS FACE: BUSY BUT ABSENT

Modern pastoral leadership pressures:

- Programs, meetings, admin, crises, expectations.
- Being physically present but

emotionally, 
spiritually, or mentally
absent.

The Danger:

- Leading for people but not with people.
- Leaders becoming distant managers instead of shepherd-leaders.



Presence requires:

- Slowing down.
- Listening without fixing.
- Resisting the urge to rush to solutions.

John 10:14 – “I know my sheep and my sheep know me.”



Presence as a leadership practice.



PRESENCE AS A LEADERSHIP PRACTICE

Presence with God

- Leadership presence flows from time spent in God's presence.
- You cannot give presence if you are spiritually depleted.
- Psalm 16:11 - Fullness of joy in His presence.



PRESENCE AS A LEADERSHIP PRACTICE

Presence with People

- Being attentive, not distracted.
- Leading through listening.
- Showing up consistently, not only in crises.



PRESENCE AS A LEADERSHIP PRACTICE

Presence in Moments of Pain

- Job's friends were most helpful when they sat with him in silence (Job 2:13).
- Sometimes leadership means standing/sitting with, not speaking over.

Presence communicates value before vision.





PRACTICAL TAKEAWAYS FOR LEADERS

- Schedule margins for presence, not only meetings.
- Practice undistracted listening (phone down, eyes up).
- Lead fewer things better, with greater relational depth.
- Regularly ask: *Am I accessible, or just available?*

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1 Thessalonians 2:8 (NIV) “Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.”

The ministry of presence is not an added task - it is the heart of pastoral leadership.

