

Appreciating Andrew Love of the New Hope Family Church in Maryland

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The most important thing to our pastor is community and being real. He is fearless and unashamed to do what is right for God, even if it is the unpopular thing, and he is patient to teach why he is passionate about his causes.

I brought a spiritual daughter to church last year, near the beginning of our pastor's ministry. He immediately began to spend all his spare time with us, helping me to educate her, creating evening programs for her, offering a Divine Principle study night, Saturday workshops and an internal guidance course on traditions and becoming a member of our church. My spiritual daughter and anyone who joined in our activities received a rich diet of God's truth and love, and she was bowled over. Now she and her husband are Blessed.

Our pastor uses his talent -- comedy -- for God. He is hilarious and is able to get away with saying almost anything by using comedy. Ironically, many times this allows him to be more honest than sincerity would allow. Many lessons can be received by us this way that might otherwise not be shared.

Being 34 years old but a first generation, our pastor is a great bridge between the elders and the youth of our church. We can all relate to him, and he can understand us all. He has the dedication, tears and intensity for God the first generation members have, and he also has the tireless passion, vision and love of arts, music and fun of the second generation. And he is so very cool! He even plays the drums!

Our pastor has a calling from God to expose and heal the problem of pornography among young and old alike. I fear we may lose him as he begins to focus more on the cause, but I am so proud of him for taking on Satan for the sake of others. He sees our youth losing hope and even their lives because they suffer, and he knows that the solution to overcoming this monster is openness, honesty, intimate relationships and no shame. He has started support groups, and his outrage over this epidemic is driving him to want to take the message nationwide and to the world.

I think God created this pastor especially for us, and we are the lucky ones. I wish we could give his family more money and a house. But the best gift from our pastor's point of view would be our victory as a real, loving community who is embracing every one of us and fulfilling our tribal messiahship responsibilities. He is a Top Gun man of God!

-Libby Henkin