Pastors, you have, in the last few months in the United States and Canada (and beyond), been asked to do what must have seemed impossible. Perhaps it does still.

You’ve watched, and called your people to pray, as Australia burned.

You’ve listened, and called your people to pray, as our national political turmoil has engulfed our churches and our communities.

You’ve risen to the challenge, and called your people to pray, as a global pandemic forced us all to find new ways of being Church, drove us into our homes and away from one another physically, wreaked tragedy the world over, and left us all doing life in ways that leave us exhausted, feeling alone and experiencing trauma.

And in the most recent weeks, you have entered the roiling waters of hate, and called your people to pray, as the reality and effects of racism have once again reared their ugly heads in loud and insistent and violent ways. You have demanded justice; you have insisted on Love.

You have stood with your people as they have feared and fought and cried and prayed and wondered and felt alone. Perhaps you never imagined your call would lead you to such a time as this. And yet, here you are.

Pastors, you may be tired. You may have fear and anxiety, too, just like your people. You may be wondering where and how this all will end. You may, as you have called your people to pray, be begging desperately for prayers yourself, because you have not known the way.

But pastors...you have made a way. And you have not done so alone. God has not once left your side. God has not once forsaken you. God has not, even for a moment, brought you this far without the merciful promise to see you and your people through. God has upheld you and strengthened you. Every step of the way.

We give thanks, during the upcoming Week of Ministry and every other day, for your collective callings. We pray for you with full certainty that God’s love and grace will continue to guide your steps, lift up your voice, and give strength to your witness.

You are not alone. Thanks be to God.

www.pensionfund.org/week-of-ministry

Isaiah 41:10 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Do not fear, for I am with you,
    do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
    I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.