

**December 26, 2020**

### **Local Conference Advance**

***Life is short—define your priorities.*** A pastor had a large, white rectangular board in his office. A timeline starting with his date of birth and presumed date of death (based on Social Security actuarial statistics) was drawn at the top of the board. The pastor was 42. He presumed based on his family health background that his imminent death would occur at around his 75<sup>th</sup> year of life. Statistically speaking, he only had 32 years of life left. He also assumed that the last 10 years of his life would be riddled with medical issues and, thus, the quality of his life would be lessened. In short, he only had 22 years of quality life left.

If other variables such as accidents, strokes, and heart attacks would not occur, this pastor could have 22 years of opportunities to make a meaningful life for himself, for his family, and for the local community in which he lives. (Of course, God ultimately determines when we die.)

We have to give it to him. He was very intentional about his remaining life. Can we say the same about ours? Have we thought about how we are to live out the remaining time of our lives? What are our priorities? Where do we spend most of our time, resources, and energies? Is God part of it at all? This year, 2020 is ending. Let us give liberally. Let us give as if God is the most important aspect of our lives.